



MESSAGES OF THE PRESIDENT

**CARLOS P. GARCIA**

1957-1961

**BOOK 8 | VOLUME 3**

Historical Papers and Documents

## **ADDRESSES AND SPEECHES**

**Speech of President Garcia on presenting the Golden Heart Presidential Award posthumously to the late President Ramon Magsaysay, to Mrs. Luz B. Magsaysay, widow of the late President, in ceremony held Monday Morning, March 17, at Malacañang, in connection with the first anniversary observance of the death of the late President**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH ON PRESENTING THE GOLDEN HEART PRESIDENTIAL AWARD POSTHUMOUSLY TO THE LATE PRESIDENT RAMON MAGSAYSAY, TO MRS. LUZ B. MAGSAYSAY, WIDOW OF THE LATE PRESIDENT, IN CEREMONY HELD MONDAY MORNING, MARCH 17, AT MALACAÑANG, IN CONNECTION WITH THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE OF THE DEATH OF THE LATE PRESIDENT**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

SO LITTLE, I believe, is this posthumous honor that we have today conferred on the late illustrious President Ramon Magsaysay. But however modest it might seem against his great record of devoted and patriotic service to our country, it nevertheless stands out as a warm and grateful recognition from our people of the many signal achievements in his lifetime which have all brought about the consummation of the desired objective of returning once again the government to the people.

If history were to judge Ramon Magsaysay not only by what he had done but also by what he could have done, then there would be little room to doubt that the verdict would be that he could have accomplished even greater things than what he had achieved for his country and people. To make Country and people happy was Ramon Magsaysay's foremost obsession that invariably gave him the courage, the firmness, and the fiery determination to dare and to do in his field of service. To his country, he had given augmented prestige in the concert of nations; to his people, he had given racial pride and dignity and a fresh urge to forge ahead and live at peace and in freedom with the other progressive peoples of the world. That, I sincerely believe, was Ramon Magsaysay in general perspective.

We are immensely heartened, I am sure, that his widow, Mrs. Luz B. Magsaysay, has come personally to accept the Golden Heart Award. If I may take the liberty of saying so, Ramon Magsaysay could not have risen to be a great leader and patriot without the wholesome and tempering influence that Mrs. Magsaysay had cast upon his life. To her, I say generously, may be attributed in large measure the dynamism and the mortality of our late beloved Chief Executive.

We are happy, Mrs. Magsaysay, that you have come to receive the highest award that your late distinguished husband so richly deserves.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Funeral Oration of President Garcia on Ramon Magsaysay**

**Funeral Oration  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
On Ramon Magsaysay**

[Delivered on March 21, 1957]

MR. PRESIDENT,  
MR. SPEAKER,  
GENTLEMEN OF CONGRESS,  
FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

IN the noon and zenith of his career, in the glory of a triumphant life fully dedicated to the service of the nation, President Ramon Magsaysay passed away from this worldly scene of action to the infinite realm of immortality. His death, which after all in the higher view is nothing but a transition to eternal life, has succeeded in carrying away the dust of which man is made. But the spirit that was the real Ramon Magsaysay, the personification of faith and love and action that was Ramon Magsaysay, will live forever in the heart of the nation that he so devotedly served as a leader.

Our bereaved country and his beloved wife and family have lost in a physical sense the warmth of his personality. The masses of our people have been cut away from the fervent touch of their greatest champion. The free world has been deprived of the physical presence of a steadfast leader in Southeast Asia for the cause of democracy and freedom. But all these bereavements are passing and temporal. The essence of his life and works—made of the acts of his kindness and generosity, of his sublime courage and patriotism, of his heroism in defense of democracy and freedom, of his zeal in lifting up the common man to new heights of dignity and self-respect, of his relentless crusade against abuses, dishonesty, and corruption—all these will remain as the imperishable glory of the Filipino nation, the pride of the race, and the inspiration of our youth.

Ramon Magsaysay came to us in the night of crisis to deliver us from the enveloping gloom of a Godless, ruthless, unprincipled ideology. He applied strength where force was inevitable, but at the same time he stretched out a gentle hand to those among our countrymen who might be won back to the ways of freedom. In this manner he dealt to the Communists their first fatal blow in Asia, and we owe it not only to him but to ourselves and to those who will follow us to preserve the precious gains that he had won.

In the councils of nations Ramon Magsaysay led our people to steadfast and unflinching allegiance to the banners of the free. For him none of the deviousness of the opportunist or the equivocability of “neutralism.” For him and his people the only course to follow was the course of honor and sincerity; the only path to tread was the path of friendship and alliance with the free forces of the free world particularly the leader and champion thereof, the United States of America. Hence the entire free world deeply mourns the passing of Ramon Magsaysay as attested to by hundred of messages and speeches abroad and by the presence here of special high representatives of eight heads of state in Asia, Europe, Oceania, and America, in addition to the resident diplomatic representatives in the Philippines who honor this solemn occasion by their presence. In memory of our fallen leader, Ramon Magsaysay, we pledge to our friends of the democratic world that we shall keep our flag flying high and proudly among the banners of freedom.

But Ramon Magsaysay’s most imperishable works are those that he wrought among the least and lowliest of his people. Neglected and ignored for centuries, untended and uncared for by the leaders, the masses of our country had

begun to lose faith and hope in government. Then he came, preaching by word and deed that government was of, for, and by all the people; that those who sat in the seats of the mighty honored themselves best by ministering to the needs of the lowly; that the only justification and supreme purpose of government was to promote the material, social, cultural, and spiritual betterment of the citizens. No wonder that the burst of flame in the moonlight which marked his end was also a searing fire that spread throughout the country, bringing pain and sorrow to the hearts of the masses who had finally found a friend.

But weep not, our people. For the glow of Magsaysay's love for the masses, the fire of his zeal to serve and help them shall illumine our ways in the difficult days and years ahead. He shall guide us along the same paths of service and devotion, and we shall follow in his footsteps. And thus shall he continue to live among us, for ten times ten thousand years, for as long as the sun fills with warmth and light this land he loved so much and served so well.

May the Almighty receive the soul of our beloved President with His infinite love and mercy, and shower upon his beloved wife, children, parents, and other members of his family the abundance of His Blessings.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1957). President Garcia's funeral oration on Ramon Magsaysay, March 21, 1957. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 53(6), 1750-1752.

**Speech of President Garcia at the Commencement Exercises of the Manila Law College, March 27, 1957**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH AT THE COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES  
OF THE MANILA LAW COLLEGE, MARCH 27, 1957**

MY first words are warmest congratulations to each and all of you on this great moment of your graduation and felicitations to your Alma Mater—the Manila Law College—for turning out this big bunch of brained youth to the field of action and productivity.

At a time like this—shortly after the tragic misfortune that has befallen our people because of the demise of our beloved President Ramon Magsaysay—it is well to take stock of ourselves. It is necessary to appraise our assets as a people in the midst of a momentous period in our national life. It is imperative that we make an honest examination of conscience to find out whether or not we have made ourselves worthy of the responsibility towards our country. Now that we have been orphaned of our leaders, what can we do? What shall we do?

Thus I have chosen as my subject: PATRIOTISM.

Every Filipino loves his country. But not every Filipino is a true patriot. He who loves the Philippines only for what the country can give him—lands, houses, plantations—is not necessarily a patriot.

Patriotism is unselfish like Rizal's love of country. Patriotism is a passion that cannot be denied like Mabini's attachment to his beloved Philippines. Patriotism is boundless like Magsaysay's devotion to his people.

But this infinite affection, this predilection for our country, means a number of concepts. It means a belief that our land is the most beautiful, the most fertile, the most healthful in the whole world. Patriotism also means that wherever we may be we are proud of our culture—our dance and our arts and the traditions of our people. To us, the most glorious history of all mankind began with the scroll written with the blood of Lapu Lapu in Mactan, which was unfolded through the centuries and embellished with the deeds of Dagohoy, Tamblot, Del Pilar, and the unsung heroes of '96 and of Corregidor and Bataan.

Patriotism has come to mean love of our countrymen. Each one is a part of us. Each one is a part of the Philippines. You hurt one Filipino and you hurt the whole nation. Every Filipino is an inherent part of our nature. Therefore, any misfortune that a Filipino suffers is a misfortune of the entire Philippine archipelago. Thus, perhaps among ourselves, we do not feel intensely the harm we sometimes inflict upon our own fellow-countrymen. But let a foreigner pull one single hair from a Filipino's head or step ever so lightly on his toes and, as one man, we rise in his defense.

And so patriotism means that we love and cherish our fellow-Filipinos. We admire their courage, their diligence, their patience, their peaceful and law-abiding nature, their hospitality, their kindness. We feel a terrible pain when Filipinos are accused of indolence, indifference, smugness, and complacency. And we proceed to teach ourselves to be more alert, more industrious, more persevering. This explains why PATRIOTISM is such a perennially fascinating subject. Patriotism is progressive and, like wine, it mellows with time. Patriotism is not isolationism. It is not chauvinism. It is the antonym of patrioteering.

How can we preserve this love of country forever? We can keep the patriotic spirit through *education* and *information*; through the practice of honesty and the observance of honor—above everything; through constructive action often impelled by what is known as civic conscience.

If we wish to preserve a genuine love of country, we ourselves must employ all the means at our command to enable us to sing with pride:

“Land of the morning ...” and

“This is my own, my native land.”

Then suddenly we shall stiffen and say in an ominous undertone:

“Never shall invaders trample this sacred shore.”

But why speak of enemies? Who are our enemies?

We have two types of enemies. One is external; the other, internal.

The external enemy is COMMUNISM. He is the Communist just outside the Philippines. He creeps onto our shores in swift, silent boats—like a thief in the night. He melts away with the shadows. He shouts his threats and chants his siren song through radio transmitters in Moscow and Peiping.

He is disguised sometimes as a neutralist. He wants us to live in peace with the Communists—as if it were feasible to live with the devil. He comes here as a neutralist—but he is a neutralist for Communism. When he leaves our country, he tells the Communists how evil and reprehensible the Filipinos could be. Beware of Communists in the guise of a neutralist.

The time has come when we must call a spade a spade. There can be no compromise between light and darkness, between a government of, for, and by the people and a government of dictators, between Freedom and Communism. Neutralism is an effete equivocation. Neutralism is simply shutting our eyes to reality.

Communism stealthily, quietly, treacherously crawls on its hands and knees to enter Congress, the schools, the civic organizations, the very heart of the government. Communism is like a termite. It slides noiselessly into the very foundations of our house and slowly, surely, silently destroy them.

This is the enemy without.

The other enemy is within our own selves. To a large extent we carve our own destiny. If we help ourselves, if we realize that God will help those who strive, seek, find, and do not yield to the temptations of the world, then the Philippines will be the happiest country that man has ever inhabited.

Our enemy within ourselves takes the forms of selfishness, greed, impurity, and dishonesty. We cannot have true patriotism as long as we allow ourselves to be completely dominated by these evil traits. We must conquer them if we wish to triumph over our external enemy.

Let us never forget that the true Filipino, like Rizal, Burgos, and Quezon, is not afraid to admit his error and to proceed to “build more stately mansions than the last.”

I enjoin you, therefore, my dear graduates, never to falter in the gigantic mission, to be morally and spiritually pure and intellectually strong. The palms of victory will be yours if you possess honor and virtue. Remember, you get out of life what you invest in it. You will be patriots and heroes of our country, for with hallowed selflessness you will give everything for God and the Philippines. With the abundance of love in giving, your harvest of life will be plentiful.

You will never as law practitioners allow your profession to be prostituted by greed and selfishness and by the grossness and sterility of our materialistic age. You will defend the cause of the weak and the unfortunate. You will uphold the rights of the common man who generally is inarticulate and, even, illiterate. You will not hesitate to lay down your life, if need be, for the imperishable glory of our beloved Filipinas.

And one day, from the dark shadows of our present night under the menace of Communism you will emerge and, like Bonifacio, stand upon a hill to raise the white sword of righteousness for the preservation of our liberty and our

way of life. Keep that sword on high forever, for yours is this land to have and to hold, to keep and to cherish, “till the last syllable of recorded time.”

*Source:* **University of the Philippines College of Law Library**



**Speech of President Garcia on Philippine Foreign Policy towards Asia, March 29, 1957**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S STATEMENT ON PHILIPPINE FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS ASIA, MARCH 29, 1957**

OUR policy towards Asia is a continuation of that laid down by President Magsaysay. Last October our late President said that it was one of the objectives of our foreign policy to develop "our political and cultural relations with countries of the free world with particular emphasis on our relations with our Asian neighbors." He mentioned this objective together with the paramount purpose of national security which we have achieved by collective defense arrangements with other free countries, particularly the United States of America.

Taken together, these two objectives mean that we seek the strengthening of freedom in Asia for two reasons: first, so that our fellow Asians may enjoy the fruits of real independence; and second, so that we may, by being surrounded with communities of free Asians, be all the more secure from subversion and attack.

To this end, it is our purpose within the limits of our capacities to share in the efforts of giving substance to the freedom of Asians. This is our purpose in intensifying technical and cultural exchanges with such countries as Indonesia, Vietnam, China, Malaya, and other countries of free Asia. This is why we recognized Vietnam and why we want to open diplomatic missions in more Asian capitals; such as, Rangoon.

This is our policy in Asia. It cannot be adequately expressed in any single slogan.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Speech of President Garcia at the 49th Commencement Exercises of the Philippine Normal College, Saturday Afternoon, March 30**  
**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH AT THE 49TH COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES OF THE PHILIPPINE NORMAL COLLEGE, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 30**

PRESIDENT  
MEMBERS  
MEMBERS  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

OF  
OF  
THE

THE  
GRADUATING

NAVAL,  
FACULTY,  
CLASS,

IT is with great pleasure that I have come in response to your invitation to participate in this year's commencement exercises as your guest speaker. At the outset allow me to congratulate the graduates on the happy termination of their studies in preparation for their chosen career. This occasion takes my mind back to the days when I myself was a classroom teacher in my home province of Bohol, where I taught for a few years. As I look back wistfully to that pleasant experience of mine in the days of my youth, I realize more and more the importance of the role which the teacher plays in our democratic society. It goes without saying that democracy thrives best where there is an enlightened and militant public opinion. Since it is the school which is charged with the task of enlightening the people and of teaching them about their rights and obligations as citizens, this social agency has a great deal to do with the moulding of public opinion; so it occupies a strategic position in our social structure. So strong is the influence of the school that our national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, referred to it as the book in which is written the future of the nations. And since it is the teacher who determines what the school will be like, it follows that he is the central figure in the writing of that book.

I am fully aware of the recent expansion of the sphere of activity of the Filipino teacher. Whereas, in our days the teacher devoted practically all of his time to the teaching of children, today he has to attend to other duties which, although important, are not germane to the traditional function of the teacher. Society is making heavy demands on his time and energy. He is called upon to serve during emergencies like fires, floods, volcanic eruptions, and outbreaks of epidemics. He is called upon during election time to see that the real voice of the people in the choice of officials who are to hold the reins of the government is correctly and honestly registered. Through the giving of lectures and in other ways he helps in the collection of taxes. Then, too, under the community school idea, the teacher is expected to be a social leader. He goes about among the people in community and stimulates them to study their own problems and work out their own solutions in order that the community will become cleaner and more healthful and the people's lives richer and more abundant. He acts as a catalyzer of community action, utilizing group dynamics in the attainment of carefully defined goals.

In other words, the competencies which a teacher these days must possess in order to succeed have greatly increased because he is no longer merely a mentor and guide of children but also a leader of adults in community improvement. However, the Philippine Normal College, as an institution for the preparation of teachers, has successfully developed these competencies in you, graduates, during your four years of study so that you can now face the future with confidence.

And so, as you prepare to leave the halls of your alma mater to perform the delicate task which society has assigned to you, let me ask you to give your attention for a moment to a consideration of a vital question; namely, the question of how education may be used to help insure our national security and survival. This is an important question at this time because there are indications pointing to the existence of forces within and without which pose a threat to the safety and permanence of the democracy we have set up in this country. It is fortunate that self-preservation is one of the most powerful urges of man. It is also fortunate that what is true of the individual in this regard is likewise true of the whole nation. The Filipino people today constitute a nation which is fully conscious of its collective personality and justly proud of its common history and traditions. It is our fondest hope that as a people we shall be able to weather the storms which endanger our national existence.

The determination of our people to lead an independent life was amply shown during our more than three centuries of association with Spain when on more than one occasion we made manifest our desire to be on our own. The revolts led by Dagohoy, Tamblot, Diego Silang and others and particularly the Philippine revolution in 1896 are clear evidences of the existence of this desire. We demonstrated it during the American regime when in the halls of

the United States Congress as well as directly before the American people our national leaders asserted in no uncertain terms our right to a place in the council of the free nations of the world. And we clearly proved it during the Japanese occupation when we rejected serious overtures which were made to win us over into the orbit of the much-vaunted co-prosperity sphere. It is to the everlasting credit of the Filipino people that we emerged from these trying experiences more united and more determined than ever to be our own masters.

Now that we are an independent nation, with freedom to shape our own destiny as a people, it behooves us to see to it that our young Republic, which was born amidst the throes of human suffering and which we have so tenderly nurtured these recent years, shall live and endure. As the beneficiaries of the relentless struggles and the untold sacrifices of our forefathers, it is the duty of the present generation to keep the torch of liberty aflame and to pass it on, with even greater brilliance, to our children and our children's children.

In this very important mission, our schools have a definite role to play. In the first place, our institutions of learning should help develop in our children and adults a deep and abiding love of country. Call it nationalism or patriotism as you wish, but we have to develop and nurture it. For a country whose people profess no love for it may be likened to a mother who is so unfortunate as to have ungrateful children who are indifferent to her welfare and who, in her hour of need, may leave her to her fate. We want our people to be so closely attached to the land in which they first saw the light of day that they will do everything in their power, even to the extent of making the supreme sacrifices, to defend it against all possible dangers.

This is not to say that internationalism has no place in our educational program. It has, for in this age of the jet plane and of the atom bomb, distance has been all but annihilated and the world is being converted into one community. As a matter of fact, we are a member of the United Nations organization. But it is to be expected that a Filipino should love his own country and people more than he should love any other country and people. And so we should teach in our schools love of country and appreciation of its ideals, traditions, and culture without in any way showing lack of respect for the culture of other peoples.

In the second place, our schools need to work for greater economic competence and self-sufficiency on the part of our people, for a contented and prosperous citizenry is not likely to lend aid and comfort to any move designed to weaken the foundations of our national structure. No prosperous citizen would be likely to exchange his comfortable present life for one which is uncertain or even unknown and untried. If we were to make a social and economic survey of present-day conditions in this country, we would find that there is much to improve. The methods of work and the standards of living of the masses of our people, particularly in the rural areas, are loudly crying for remedial measures. The teachers of the public schools deserve much credit for going out of their way to help themselves. And, of course, the Government has been doing its part to improve the welfare of the masses. The building of roads to facilitate travel and the transportation of the farmers' products, the construction of inexpensive homes for low-salaried employees, the introduction of more effective methods of farming, and the provision of safe drinking water are but a few of the things the present Administration is doing in its desire to ameliorate the living conditions of the common man.

It is with a view to improving the economic condition of our people that this Administration has been giving much encouragement to our vocational schools. In the belief that an educated man must be able to pull his own weight in society, that parasitism is a social evil which should be rooted out, we are giving our young men and women every opportunity to get the training they need in order to be able to add to the productive capacity of our country and at the same time have an honest means of livelihood. It has been shown that there is a close relation between the degree of education of a people and the living standards they maintain. For instance, Columbia in South America is rich in natural resources. Its soil is fertile. It has rich oil deposits. It has extensive forests. And its climate is almost perfect. But because the people lack the technical training needed to develop the country's natural resources, the standard of living in that country is quite low. On the other hand, there is Denmark, which a hundred years ago was one of the poorest countries in Europe. Much of its soil is sandy. It has a short growing season. But its people have now attained a high level of education. Its workers possess superior technical training. The result is that Denmark has a high standard of living, and the per capita income of its people is one of the highest in the world.

It is a deplorable fact that the earning power of a great portion of our people is very low; as a matter of fact, it is one of the lowest in the world. Certainly, something must be done to improve this condition. The encouragement being

given by the Administration to the development of home industries is one way of helping our people to increase their earnings and thus raise their standards of living. In consonance with this policy, training centers were organized by the Bureau of Public Schools in different parts of the country for the training of teachers and other persons who were interested in learning how to make useful articles which can be exchanged for cash. With proper organization so that the marketing of the finished products can proceed in an efficient and orderly manner, it should be possible to make these home industries contribute toward our economic prosperity. And I repeat: economic prosperity is a great asset toward national stability.

Lastly, we need to strengthen the character of our people. It is a sad fact that on every hand we hear disturbing comments regarding the decline of the moral standards of our people since the last war. And only recently we read reports in the papers about the misbehavior of young men of tender age who have committed acts bordering on criminality. This unfortunate behavior is a symptom of a malady that afflicts our social fabric and vitally concerns all of us. We cannot dismiss the matter with a shrug of the shoulder's and say it is none of our business. It is our business because we are convinced that the surest guarantee for national strength and survival is sterling character. We need to develop in our children a deep appreciation of the meaning and value of democracy, not only as a form of government but also as a way of life. Then, too, we must have discipline. Discipline is not incompatible with democracy. We often associate freedom with democracy and we say that there can be no democracy without freedom. The freedom that is meant here, however, is freedom within the law—that is, freedom to do what is right. Irresponsible freedom will only lead to anarchy and chaos.

Ladies and gentlemen, in the midst of seemingly conflicting concepts as to what constitute the good life, we need to look to the eternal verities, those bedrock principles which from time out of mind have served as the mainsprings of human conduct—honesty, truthfulness, respect for authority, obedience to law, and consideration of the rights of others. These are safe guides for us today as they will be safe guides until time shall be no more.

To conclude: if education is to serve as a means of insuring national survival, it should work for the development of sane nationalism, economic competence, and sterling character. But of the three, character is the most important, for the most precious wealth any nation can have is a strong and upright citizenry which is ever loyal and devoted to the welfare of the country. Our constitution requires all schools to develop, among others, moral character, personal discipline, and civic conscience. Indeed, the first duty of the teacher is not to impart knowledge to his students but rather to build character. The nature of this task raises the level of his calling above that of a mere occupation. It is even higher than a profession: it is a mission.

I close with the words of the famous American orator, Daniel Webster: "If we work upon marble, it will perish; if we work upon brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon immortal minds, if we imbue them with principles, with the just fear of God and love of our fellowmen, we engrave on those tablets something which will brighten to all eternity."

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**Speech of President Garcia at the Cerebral Palsy Fund Drive Kick-Off, Malacanang Social Hall, Tuesday Evening, April 2, 1957**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH AT THE CEREBRAL PALSY FUND DRIVE KICK-OFF, MALACANANG SOCIAL HALL, TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 2, 1957**

MY FRIENDS:

THERE are few projects which I consider worthier of government and public support than this educational fund campaign for the victims of cerebral palsy. The name given to this project faithfully calls attention to the two weapons we must have to fight the inroads of this crippling disease. We must spread education about cerebral palsy, for the truth is that in our country very little is known about it—and we cannot subdue an enemy we do not know, and we must have the funds to cope with it.

It is estimated that there are about 20,000 cerebral spastics in the country today. For the most part, they have been neglected and ignored, or left to deal with their disability with crude and haphazard methods. It was only lately that the government, through the National Orthopedic Hospital, and civic spirited citizens, through the Elks Cerebral Palsy Clinic, have initiated efforts to deal with this painful affliction scientifically and effectively. Even so, the problem still far exceeds our capabilities for coping with it.

I am therefore happy and encouraged to see that the unselfish citizens behind this project, rather than submit helplessly to the enormity of the challenge confronting them, have been inspired to even greater and more determined efforts. Surely such determination and courage deserve the government's encouragement and assistance. It was for this reason that I readily agreed to sign the proclamation authorizing the Elks Cerebral Palsy to undertake this educational and fund campaign. It is for this reason that I now call upon all our people to extend a helping hand to this most worthy endeavor, for the sake of our severely handicapped cerebral spastics. For myself, I consider it a privilege to start off this campaign with my personal contribution of five hundred pesos.

*Source:* University of the Philippines College of Law Library

**Address of President Garcia upon being conferred Doctor of Laws degree by the Philippine Law School,  
April 5, 1957**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S ADDRESS UPON BEING CONFERRED DOCTOR OF LAWS DEGREE BY  
THE PHILIPPINE LAW SCHOOL, FRIDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 5, 1957**

IN a spirit of deep humility and profound gratitude, I accept the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, from the Philippine Law School. In congratulating you for your graduation this year, may I reiterate today my deep appreciation to our Alma Mater for conferring upon me the highest scholastic honor upon my graduation as valedictorian of the law class of 1923. These are landmarks in my own life which I shall cherish to the end of my days, golden ties of loyalty and affection that bind me to our Alma Mater. This day also marks the beginning of the careers of this years' graduates and may I wish for all and each of you success and happiness.

Please permit me also to take advantage of this happy occasion to extend my heartfelt greetings to my former classmates, college mates, and professors and to the dynamic leader of this institution since its foundation, President Ricardo Lacson. To me this is not only an occasion from which I derive spiritual satisfaction and joy, but also an opportunity for renewing that friendship the roots of which are 35 years deep. It is my fervent hope that this association will go on in ever deepening love and intimacy.

And as year after year this great institution of learning continues to fulfill its mission by training the intellectually capable for membership in the bar, that circle of alumni and friends owing allegiance to this Alma Mater is enlarged and thus all the more firmly bound by a common loyalty.

Nor is the bond forged solely by our gratitude to this great and honored school. We are knit together likewise by the indestructible ideological unity that covers all of us in the legal profession. If we think of her, as the great jurist Holmes did, as a mistress, we do, to follow his language, know "that she is a mistress only to be wooed with sustained and lonely passion—only to be won by straining all the faculties by which man is likeliest to a god."

That mood both of exaltation and reverence, I am certain, has made us captives tonight, without any will on our part to resist, for indeed the law is deserving of such an accolade from us her votaries, faithful votaries, I trust.

As new members of a great and noble profession, you stand upon the threshold of a golden opportunity to help your country and people. The Philippines is beset with great problems that challenge the best in us. The call today is for men with stout hearts, clear and steadfast eyes, unswerving loyalty and adequate training; men who will go forth unafraid and determined to do battle for the good of the people. Every man who has it in himself to solve these problems must come forth immediately if it is his wish to see a happy and prosperous Philippines.

I call your attention just to two major problems of our country today: the plight of the common man and the threat to our national security. Multitudinous problems face our government today, but to me the two problems I just mentioned stand out in importance.

You are well aware of the great program of this administration to help the small man fight his gallant battle to emancipate himself from the grip of the loan sharks. You have heard of his fight to liberate himself from the clutches of the speculators and profiteers, to free himself from the octopus of monopolism. You know of his fight to emerge out of the darkness of ignorance into the light of education. You are familiar with his fight for better, more extensive, and adequate health services. You know of his gallant fight to own a piece of land, a parcel of his country, where to build his home and his altar and to terminate once and for all the cruel days of perpetual tenancy.

In this epic struggle of the masses, in this great awakening of the masses, I want to declare before the nation that the Administration will give our people full backing and support and will do its utmost to help them attain these noble objectives.

I would like to recapitulate that this Administration is committed to an unrelenting crusade to the following objectives:

1. To give this country back to the people by enabling every head of a family to own a piece of land whereon to build his own home, erect his altar, and assure for him and his loved ones reasonable economic security;
2. To emancipate the small man from loan sharks, speculators and profiteers, monopolists, and other exploiters of society;
3. To establish a strong and militant middle class;
4. To assure for the people the fullest enjoyment of their constitutional rights, especially freedom of thought and expression, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear; and
5. To attain full sway of democracy, liberty, and justice and to maintain in all fronts relentless fight against the godless, ruthless, and totalitarian ideology of communism.

To the young lawyer, an untapped and fertile field for service lie in our rural areas. Removed from the Presidencia, the health clinic, and even the public school in some barrios, many farmers have lost touch with active government. Sometimes a wandering rural health nurse comes to his barrio, but to the barrio folk the government is a remote and forbidding entity.

You who have the advantage of a legal education and who feel the abiding concern of government for your welfare must sell the government to our rural folks by explaining to them their rights and obligations under a democracy.

There is need of bringing our government to the people so that they will learn to respect and love it, to cherish it in their hearts, and defend it if need be, and I trust the necessity does not arise, with their lives.

More important than just disseminating the benefits of government, everyone who loves the legal profession should stand ready to help the harassed farmers to enforce or defend his rights. Lawyers must be imbued with a deep sense of sympathy and compassion for the lot of the small man. The nobility of the legal profession is never more manifest than when it acts as a shield against injustice and neglect; and the lawyer is never more exalted than when he plays the role of a defender of the right. Let us use our knowledge of the law to enhance the happiness of our people and to protect our unlettered brethren from unscrupulous men. Having drunk deep from the inspiration of this institution, I know you are well equipped to help your people. I pray that you employ your new found weapon in the service of your country.

The second problem which I wish to present before you today is our national security.

Today we are again compelled to harness the resources of the nation in defense of our freedom and our chosen way of life. Perhaps it is unnecessary for me to identify this new threat to our security. But if I do so, it is to make crystal clear the nature and seriousness of this threat. On several occasions recently, I have expressed the determination of the Administration to maintain the position of active resistance and opposition to the new enemy—communism, international communism. This policy I would like to emphasize is not merely a question of choosing to oppose something of which we disapprove nor is it a question of taking sides in a matter of dispute between two other principals. It is a matter of self-defense, a matter of acting to contain and repel an incessantly aggressive, malignant force.

Active participation in the struggle against communism is imposed upon us by the very nature of its conspiratorial methods. Even if we were to ignore matters of moral obligation or defense of principle, neutralism is denied to us by the mere fact that we, as a non-communist, area, according to Marxist-Leninist doctrines, are a target of hostile Communist intentions. The danger that stems from this threat, this new enemy, could perhaps be brought to a

sharper focus when we consider the basic doctrines of international communism. For instance, we who profess belief in God, will never accept Communist attacks upon our religious institutions in the form of aggressive atheism.

Let us look into the fundamental antagonism and aggrandizement of the state over the individual and on our democratic philosophy of government existing only by virtue of the will, and in the service of the people. The communistic economic system, dependent for its success upon the regimentation and brutal coercion of the citizens, stands in stark contract to the system of free enterprise upon which we base our program of achieving the material well-being of our people.

On this occasion it would be appropriate and helpful to consider the matter of communism and law.

At the very outset it is important that we take note of the facets of the question which must be borne in mind if we are to understand the Communist threat. One is a matter of semantics and the other a matter of intent. There is a great danger of our being taken in by Marxist propaganda unless we bear constantly in mind the readily established fact that the Communists attach meaning to words not at all in keeping with their common usage.

A good example of this propaganda device is the term "legal struggle". Even now, our Congress, engaged in consideration of legislative means bolstering our defense against communism find something of an obstacle in widespread misunderstanding of this term. There are many among us who have not studied the intricacies of Communist method. Hearing that the Communists have shifted their tactics from open violence to "legal" struggle there is a tendency to feel that a democracy should be willing to tolerate the movement as long as it adheres to "legal" means of achieving its objectives. These well-intentioned citizens would be justified in their position were it not for the fact that by "legal struggle" the Communist means something entirely different from our understanding of the phrase. In Marxist-Leninist terminology, "legal struggle" is the alternative to the unsuccessful program of physical violence. It is the tactics of infiltrating legal organization and legal government for the purpose of weakening, capturing, or subverting them to Communist ends.

Let us consider the matter of intent. Here we are confronted by overwhelming evidence that the Communist acknowledges no sanctity of law, whether domestic or international. He resorts to it as a matter of expediency if it furthers his objective, ignores it without compunction if it is in his interest to do so.

The most recent example of this tendency, of course, is revealed in the findings of the International Commission of Jurists assessing the legal significance of the recent Soviet intervention in Hungary. It should be noted that their study was based on Hungarian and Soviet sources of fact and that they reached their conclusion on the basis of the Soviet's own definition of aggression. As you will recall Soviet leaders refused to admit UN observers into Hungary, basing their refusal upon the contention that it was a matter which did not concern the UN. Their refusal in part included the argument that the intervention was legally justified under the terms of the Warsaw Treaty. Yet, in Article IV of that same Treaty we read the following:

*"In conformity with the provisions of the United Nations Charter, the Security Council shall be informed of the measures taken on the strength of the present article. These measures shall be terminated as soon as the Security Council takes the necessary measures for restoring and maintaining international peace and security."*

That is how communism works. How can we avoid being keenly aware of the grave threat that it poses to our way of life? We must be prepared to meet it whenever and wherever it rears its ugly head? It would be suicide for us to sit idly by in complacent indifference. If we are determined to preserve our hard-won freedom, as I know we are, we must meet this new threat with all the vigor and all the energy at our command.

Our democratic principles are worthy of defense, and it will be defended to the utmost. Let those who entertain any doubt as to our intentions so realize. We can do no less; we shall do our best.

Force we shall meet with force. For those who sincerely realize their mistake and desire to go back to the path of law and righteous life, we keep open the door. Subversion we shall root out. In doing so, we shall not lose our freedom.



Democracy can be and will be defended democratically, not by maligning the innocent, subverting our liberties and disgracing the heritage of the land proud of its strength and its freedom.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia delivered at the Bataan Day Rites, April 9, 1957**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH DELIVERED AT THE BATAAN DAY RITES ON THE LUNETA, TUESDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 9, 1957**

FELLOW  
MY FRIENDS:

VETERANS,

IT is difficult for a Filipino who is proud of his race to stand on this hallowed ground overlooking Bagumbayan Field, without feeling a twitch of glorious pain in his heart. It was here where a people's aspiration for freedom was set aflame with the death of one man; where one bullet snuffed one life only to kindle the courage of millions of people. It is meet, therefore, that on the anniversary of Bataan Day, the stage be set on this sacred ground.

I have often wondered why year after year we choose to remember that heartbreaking day, 15 years ago, when organized resistance in the peninsula of Bataan by gallant Filipino and American soldiers crumbled before overwhelmingly superior forces of the enemy; why we have to recall every once so often the gallant but tragically futile stand of the Philippine and American Forces in that beleaguered and blood-drenched peninsula and bring to mind again the nightmares of the death march that followed.

If a people choose to remember the tragedy of Bataan, it is because Bataan may have been a military defeat but it was a magnificent victory of a people's spirit, the victory of a strong and steadfast heart against a cruel and determined enemy. There must be something in the Fall of Bataan that makes our people take pride in being Filipinos. Wars have been lost in the past and defeated peoples have gone down with them, but the defeat of Bataan was a temporary military defeat: the Filipino people not only won that war but became stronger with it.

What did the Philippines lose in the battle of Bataan? As we look back through the years against the perspective of a people's courage that rose from defeat and subjugation to a new and glorious present, it is now clear that all we lost in Bataan was merely a piece of real estate which our fighting men yielded to the enemy only because of overwhelming odds. The military bastions of Bataan were the ones that crumbled. The will to fight, the fortitude to endure, and the determination to win the battles, never died in the Filipino people. In fact within a few months this spirit swept the length and breadth of our country, fired the humblest farmer with a new determination, and gave birth to the resistance movement which was kept alive until American forces liberated the country from the enemy. It was this spirit that led small patrols into encounters with the enemy at tremendous odds, that forced a people to endure deprivation, starvation, and death rather than bow to the domination of a conqueror. Finally, this avenging spirit marched with the liberation forces and side by side with their American allies ferreted the enemy out of his ratholes and without regard to life or limb hastened the early liberation of his benighted country. It must be the inspiration of this spirit which led Jose Abad Santos to a smiling death rather than bow to the enemy; that led Manuel Colayco and more like him to disregard their safety for the sake of their hapless countrymen. Much later, in the frozen wastes of Korea, the Filipino brought this ringing courage to meet the challenge of the Godless Communist aggression in that part of the world that other peoples may live in peace and happiness.

It was inevitable that the world should take notice of the Filipino brand of patriotism and love for freedom. It was this spirit that earned for the Filipino a worthy and honored place among the sisterhood of free and independent nations. I know now that Bataan must be celebrated every year not only to remember the gallant dead but to fire the living with a new resolve to carry on the torch of freedom; to rededicate again those ideals for which so many suffered and died.

On this occasion, let us pledge to the heroes of Bataan, living and dead, that by our sincere dedication to liberty and democracy, by our unswerving determination to keep our native land free from the curse of a godless ideology, and

by our unrelenting crusade for peace and universal prosperity, we shall prove to history that they have not died in vain.

Let the spirit of Bataan be the new redemptive power that would rout the forces of corruption, greed, concupiscence, voices, and criminality in our midst. Let the spirit of Bataan be the regenerative power that would lift our people to a life of faith and hope, of triumphant nationalism without any isolationist fear to live with the free world on terms of equality and mutual respect. Let the spirit of Bataan symbolize unto perpetuity the Filipino-American covenant to stand together always as they stood together on the summits of Bataan and on the rock of Corregidor in defense of freedom and democracy, and of those institutions and causes that we commonly hold dearest and nearest to our hearts. Let the spirit of Bataan be the new dynamics to our economic renaissance that would turn the wheels of industry, multiply the productivity of our agriculture, open new avenues of employment for the sinews of labor and new fields of investment for capital. Let the spirit of Bataan be an added instrument of the people for the upbuilding of a Philippine nation truly free, truly prosperous, and truly happy.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia before the league of provincial and city health officers at the FEU Auditorium, Monday Morning, April 22, 1957**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH BEFORE THE LEAGUE OF PROVINCIAL AND CITY HEALTH OFFICERS AT THE FEU AUDITORIUM, MONDAY MORNING, APRIL 22, 1957**

MY FRIENDS:

ONE of the vital elements for the stability and progress of the country is the health of its nationals. Positive health is extremely important for individual security and happiness.

The efficiency and capacity of the national man-power for productive enterprise are dependent in great measure on the state of the nation's health. You can't expect any sizeable production from labor coming from workers who are victims of diseases or infirmities or are wanting in vigor and endurance because of malnutrition. The success of settlement projects will continue to be severely hampered unless the settlement areas are completely rid of all existing health hazards. It is also important that commercial and industrial firms shall have adequate safeguards against accidents and exposures that may cause sickness because of the nature of employment.

Health measures should be directed to the population exposed to the greatest risk either because of situational consideration or need of services. In our country this involves the rural areas. As we continue to live in an agricultural economy, major emphasis on public health programs and activities should be in agricultural areas and among farm hands. It is of the utmost importance that the diseases which are predominant in these areas—and I am told that these are malaria, yaws, schistosomiasis or snail fever, the gastroenteric diseases, tuberculosis, and malnutrition—should be placed well under control and that there should be adequate measures to protect the people against these diseases and otherwise preserve and promote their health.

Until recently these areas were neglected from the health standpoint. People had no adequate protection and when they became sick there were no health personnel to attend them. They had no recourse to safe drinking water and to sanitary disposal of waste and sewage.

I regard, the accomplishments in health during the last few years highly instrumental in advancing the national progress. I hold the control of malaria and yaws, the prospect of doing the same with snail fever, the measures being taken against tuberculosis, the construction of artesian wells and waterworks, the campaign being waged against leprosy, the determination to improve conditions in the National Mental Hospital and promote mental health and all other health measures extremely significant for the national welfare. In spite of some differences which have arisen regarding the conduct of the rice enrichment program, we cannot minimize the impact which the program has in improving the nutritional status particularly of the masses of the people. It will be for our common good to thresh out those differences and execute the program in full force and effect.

The most outstanding development during the last four years is the program in rural health. The passage of Republic Act 1082, otherwise known as the Rural Health Law, is easily one of the most important pieces of legislation in the whole annals of our country. It is the one law that has really affected every man, woman, and child in the rural areas directly. Designed primarily to provide essential health services in the remote barrios and rural areas—which is being done splendidly—it has gone even far. It has made the people health conscious and even health demanding. But what is significant is the fact that with the new consciousness and demand there arise a sense of responsibility among the people health-wise.

You have made it a point to stress the people's participation in this program. This is a concept which has been overlooked because its possibilities were not fully understood. There was a time when health measures were not taken advantage by the people for whom they are meant. They had even objected to them in some instances.

Because of your efforts, people now take health as their business. This is a far cry from previous paternalistic demand which has shaped or moulded government attitude. While it gave power to people in the government, it weakened the fabric and the strength at the base.

When people in the barrios pool their own resources in material and labor and build a health center that will serve local needs, this indicates maturity and new-found strength. Citizen's participation and support to public programs at the local level will be the enduring base upon which the national structure will, rest solidly.

It is significant that our program in rural health which we pursued with vigor in 1954 has formed the pattern for similar activities in many other countries of the world. In the Annual Report of the World Health Organization for 1956 wherein 88 member and associate member states participated there was general recognition that isolated health projects are of doubtful and transient values unless they are based on a structure of decentralized integrated health services, in which curative and preventive services are organized in hospitals, laboratories, and health units, well distributed throughout the cities, towns, and villages of the country. These services must be supported by the population and guided by a competent central health authority."

Community participation and support should not be taken by government to minimize its responsibility for the health of the people. Your government assumes its responsibility in this regard with serious earnestness. You are aware that the budget for health has been substantially increasing from year to year. When the present Administration took over last January 1, 1954, the appropriation for the Department of Health in the General Appropriation Act that fiscal year was ₱16,536,930. During this present or current fiscal year, the appropriation is ₱42,931,281 or an increase of 160 per cent.

We recognize that substantially more funds are needed to meet total needs for health. It is conceded that the amount of public money being spent for health is many times less the economic loss in terms of our sickness and deaths even from the leading causes alone. We also know, as I pointed out before, that positive health is essential for economic development and progress.

It will be for some years to come before we can have all the money that are needed for health. But perhaps we should try our best to do more from what we now have. I am aware that the Department of Health is extremely concerned about this matter. Its program of training is designed to acquaint its personnel in the newer knowledge, particularly the practical, and equipped them in the developmental skills and techniques that would gear them for greater and more effective performance. Its program of health education for the masses and the emphasis that it gives to prevent health measures with the progressive integration of the various medical and health services can be expected to yield more dividends per peso expenditure. Much more accomplishments can be anticipated by a continuing program of research.

When the late President Manuel Roxas assumed office in 1946, he stated that public health in the Philippines has been set back 20 years by World War II. The nation's health today is satisfactory. We are completely rid of the epidemic diseases which decimated our people in great numbers. The crude death rate among the population is at its lowest and deaths among infants have lowered considerably. Because these are sensitive indices of health, we have reasons to be encouraged by the trends. We have been able to catch up with progress in the medical and public health fields and are now at par with many of the more advanced countries, and we are easily a leader in our sector of the globe. When we regard the conditions obtaining in some of the countries within our region such as Laos, Vietnam, and Indonesia where there is a dearth of medical and other professional personnel and where the ratio of physician to population reaches as low as 1 to 1 million, we can consider ourselves very fortunate indeed.

Where we are in public health today, we owe it to the dedicated men and women who at all hours of the day and night, in sunny weather or foul and often in complete disregard of self, are always at the guard and on call moving the frontiers forward. These are our public health men of whom you, the provincial and city health officers, make up the corps that give direction and provide the leadership. The country and the people owe much to your valuable work and we in the government are extremely proud of all of you.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines College of Law Library**



**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia at the 9th Representative Assembly of the PPSTA at the Gomez Elementary School Manila, April 23, 1957**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA’S SPEECH AT THE 9TH REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE PPSTA AT THE GOMEZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MANILA, APRIL 23, 1957**

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW-TEACHERS:

A WRITER once said that there are two ways of getting home. One of them is to stay there. The other is to walk around the world until we come back to the same place. I suppose that today, after figuratively having walked many years around the world, I have come back home at last, home in the midst of my brothers and sisters in the teaching profession. For I was once a teacher who dwelt in your midst; joining you today is like coming home, and I am immensely thrilled.

That is why I can speak only from the depth of my heart. I speak with a realization of the awesome dignity of your assemblage. It is an assemblage drafted from the heart and sinews of the Philippine Public School Teachers Association, men and women whose dedicated mission in life is the education of the people. I am proud to be identified with you, for there is no employment nobler or more valuable to the state than yours. You work, as Webster said, not upon marble that will perish, or upon brass that time will efface, or temples that will crumble to dust, but upon men’s immortal minds, imbuing them with high principles, with the just fear of God, and with love of their fellow man.

There might have been a time when men were wont to overlook the nobility of your mission and the significance of your task, but today your importance as public school teachers is being more and more tremendously recognized. This mounting importance is reflected in the increasing benefits which the Government is giving to the teacher in the form of greater financial rewards for their work, greater security for their families, and greater chances of building for the future.

I assure you that these are not mere forms of speech, but the substance of governmental action. For one thing, the Government is fully committed to a complete implementation of Republic Act 842, providing for compensation and automatic salary increases for our public school officials, teachers, and other school personnel. In fact, the Department of Education has been actually giving the teachers their partial salary adjustments since over a year ago. In the current fiscal year, an outlay of ₱17,000,000, in addition to last year’s appropriation, is released to carry out the purposes of the Act. I also assure you that the WAPCO plan will be implemented to give you yet a better deal. Already in the vocational schools where adequate funds are immediately available, we are implementing the law so as to give not only partial but complete salary adjustments.

Incidentally, the Government is at present drafting an equitable formula to solve the incongruous cases where principals and supervisors receive less than classroom teachers on the basis of adjustment in their present positions. We are even considering adjustment for teachers whose transcripts of records are still under evaluation. We are making efforts to secure additional appropriations for the full implementation of the current salary scale for elementary school teachers and others who are paid from the regular budget of the national government.

It is a source of satisfaction for all our people that the mood and temper of the times are strongly in favor of the teachers. The Government is constantly striving to give them improved working conditions and an increasing number of better facilities and equipment, in addition to more convenient and suitable teaching time arrangements. In addition to their basic salary, teachers engaged in the community development program are given an honorarium of ₱25 monthly—and we are raising this to ₱30. The teachers, in recognition of their significant role in the nation’s life, have been given a valuable seat in the Board of Trustees of the Government Service Insurance System.

All these are fitting and proper, because your profession is essential to the well-being of society, and because upon the Filipino teachers, more than any other group of men and women, rest the heavy responsibilities for the survival of our way of life. It is a condition *sine qua non*, so that the teacher may properly fulfill his role, that the Government and society should look after his welfare and secure for him the benefits and blessings of an adequately comfortable existence. As Rizal said, the teacher, in order that he may be listened to, and so that his authority may not be placed in doubt, is entitled to a recognition of his prestige, good name, moral influence, and a certain degree of freedom. I dare say that there will always be an increasing concern for the welfare of teachers in this country, as in every other country, for man's ceaseless struggle towards the achievement of the ideal commonwealth, it is the teachers who are the artists whom the philosopher Plato may well have had in mind when he declared that no state can be happy which is not designed by artists who imitate the heavenly pattern.

That is why your responsibilities are correspondingly heavy and far-reaching. You are to work to achieve the end of learning which, as the poet John Milton beautifully put it, "is to repair the ruins of our first parents by regaining to know God aright, and out of that knowledge to love Him, to imitate Him, to be like Him, by possessing our souls of true virtue, which being united to heavenly grace of faith makes up the highest perfection." So it is that the first fundamental objective of the Philippine school system, in the words of the Board of National Education, is "to inculcate moral and spiritual values inspired by an abiding faith in God." More specifically, the Constitution directs all schools—and therefore the mandate devolves upon the teachers—to develop moral character, personal discipline, civic conscience, and vocational efficiency, and to teach the duties of citizenship. Our Civil Code, placing the teachers and professors, significantly, on the same level with parents, enjoins them to cultivate the best potentialities of the heart and mind of the pupil or student, and to see to it that the rights of the child are respected and his duties complied with, and, particularly, by precept and example, to imbue the child with highmindedness, love of country, veneration for the national heroes, fidelity to democracy as a way of life, and attachment to the ideal of permanent world peace. The teacher is called upon to be a channel to transmit faithfully the heritage and traditions of our civilization to the young. His mission is to assist in their material and spiritual development because the habits, ideas, and way of life of the youth will determine the course of our national and world future.

We are all gravely concerned with the education of our people, knowing that it holds the key to their, devoutly-wish regeneration. I commit my administration to an earnest solution of the serious problems that beset our educational field. For one thing, the so-called recurrent school crises must be permanently solved, for we desire that all our people, without discriminations should partake equally of the advantages of our educational resources.

They must be particularly given the most of what we can offer in terms of vocational education. We are convinced that the needed educational orientation that will take our people to greener pastures of well-being truly lies in a proper emphasis on vocational education. That is why we shall always preserve in our schools the teaching of general science, mathematics, and physics, for these subjects constitute the basic elements for solid vocational competence. Indeed, we are embarked upon a program of community development reaching out into our most far-flung rural areas, a program geared to vocational requirements, and finding concrete and vigorous implementation in our community schools.

My administration, instead of reversing or even modifying the trend set by President Magsaysay in this field, will pursue it with increasing earnestness and vigor.

I need not discuss with you the meaning and implications of the community school program, for I am confident that since its earliest adoption in our country, you have gained a measure of familiarity with it. Let it suffice for me to say that this enterprising educational scheme imposes upon the teachers a responsibility more heavy than their traditional burden, for under its terms the school has become an effective—nay, a major—instrument for the accomplishment of our community development program. The thousands upon thousands of our teachers have become, not merely classroom figures, but community figures and community leaders, whose personalities, activities, and wholesome influences are projected not only in the classrooms, but also in the homes, in the farms, in the factories, in the councils of our towns and barrios, in public gatherings, in the various group institutions established for mutual help and improvement, so that, verily, they are catalysts in our democratic processes, who will endeavor to wipe away in all places the deficiencies and weaknesses that mar the sunshine of our days.



But in our efforts to build a vocationally-competent citizenry, we should not lose sight of the lesson drawn from the experience of other nations which have set up vocational training programs only to find out that they had sacrificed education. We will not train our youth exclusively for manipulative or even mechanical proficiency, for man is not meant to be a mechanical robot or a mere cog in an industrial machine. He is a human being, and must be reared as one, educated and trained as a human being, with an immortal destiny in the realm of the hereafter.

I am confident that you are equal to these great responsibilities. You have to be. Even at this moment, forces of evil are busy working in our midst, rearing their ugly heads in areas of poverty and ignorance and discontent, propagating evil and nefarious doctrines, and seeking by violence and bloodshed the destruction of all society. But in the face of this danger, our people shall not fear, because you are with them, to guide them, inspire them, and guard their national destiny. With the grace of God, our people, under your enlightened and ennobling leadership as the mentors of our race, shall rise victorious. And for this you will always have the deep and abiding gratitude of our country

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**Speech of President Garcia before the National Jaycees Convention at the University of San Agustin, Iloilo City, Friday, April 26, 1957**  
**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH BEFORE THE NATIONAL JAYCEES CONVENTION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN AGUSTIN, ILOILO CITY, FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1957**

MY FRIENDS:

I AM happy to be with you today and counsel with you on problems that affect our nation. All around I notice evidence of the buoyant optimism, the quiet confidence, and the easy camaraderie which in these troublous times are a welcome reminder that all is not wrong with the world. My heart lifts up too when I see the alert, bright faces of our young business executives and professionals on whom we can rely for further help in the difficult and complex job of governance, and on whose capable shoulders in the near future even greater responsibilities will surely be devolved.

You have given me by this opportunity a sense of well-being. But it is more than that, I assure you. I am likewise deeply grateful for this get-together because I know that your group has been very close to my distinguished predecessor, the late lamented leader, Ramon Magsaysay, whose policies—I have announced before and I solemnly repeat now—I intend with all the vigor and ability at my command to pursue.

That you should have been close to him, that he should have welcomed your advice, it is easy to understand. Your unquenchable spirits your disciplined and able minds, and your sense of community service, all qualify you for the sometimes thankless but indispensable role of presidential consultant. May I hope that the same eagerness with which you responded to his call, and the same enthusiasm with which you discharged the delicate tasks that our late beloved leader entrusted to you, will not be denied to his successor.

Your answer I can read in the eyes that light up with the mention of service to country that such a call entails. I know I shall not be disappointed. I hope that you will not be disappointed either. Together with the invaluable aid that your group collectively, and individually can furnish me we can serve our country. For that spirit, for that dedication, I commend you.

If you expect from your guest speaker some new and hitherto unrevealed truth about that most perplexing and difficult of all the arts—the art of government, you are in for a disappointment. But I know that you have no such expectation. I know that what you have in mind is some plain unvarnished statement of the course of action your President intends to pursue. I shall do my best to enlighten your understandable curiosity.

It is no secret that, from the moment of the grim tragedy that has befallen the country and of my assumption of the presidential office, I have announced in no uncertain terms my determination to pursue the policies of the late President Magsaysay.

God has given me the good fortune of being one of his co-workers during the all too brief tenure that he held the reins of presidential leadership. He had discussed with those of us who were in his official family the various aspect of his policies. We have been able to explore with him all their implications. We have seen them tested and we have seen them work.

All of us know how successful his policy has been in promoting the welfare of our people. Even more important, we realize how much it has meant in recapturing and holding the affection of, our people for their government, without which authority would become meaningless and allegiance a mere empty word. With the ardour for democracy so enthusiastically manifested in his personality and policies, we avoided the grave threat of the country falling like a ripe plum to the eager outstretched hands of the enemies of the free way of life.

The basic premise of the government resting on the consent of the governed demands as the first fundamental the identification of the people with it. Only on such a firm foundation of unyielding loyalty can a democratic institution maintain its existence. The policy in the social and economic field which the late President pursued with resolute

determination has been tested and has come out with flying colors. Never has there been a firmer bond between the government and the governed as there is now. This is all to the good.

All of us know why. The strength of a constitutional democracy does not rest solely in the contentment of the rich, the well-born, and the able. It is even more indispensable that the humblest and the poorest among the people are satisfied. That happy state can only be realized when they know in their hearts that they are not neglected, they are not forgotten; when they have no doubt that their government sees to it that their primary needs are attended to and satisfied.

This is not mere empty futile theorizing. This is not a novelty in political theory. And yet only with the Magsaysay administration has it been acted upon with boldness and energy.

My administration—which is just the continuation of the Magsaysay administration—intends to carry on. The great work started will not be abandoned. I can assure you there will be no retreat. That is my solemn pledge.

What is more, my administration will accelerate the pace and hasten the progress. It was a great American President, the late Theodore Roosevelt, who said “a great democracy must be progressive or it will soon cease to be great or a democracy.” That is also our creed. Not only eternal vigilance but equally so eternal progress is the price of liberty.

That kind of progress has been achieved under a vigorous leadership with a sense of intimacy and closeness to the citizenry. It has been so in the United States. It is even more so in the Philippines, where its latest and most notable example, is our late President, whom we fondly remember not as an abstract being dwelling on the heights but as a friend of everyone, whatever be his station in life.

I repeat that the sense of mission, the sense of urgency which his administration felt in connection with the upliftment of the masses will characterize my administration. The militancy and zeal in the promotion of social justice will not abate one whit. Nor is our concern solely for the undoubted benefits that such an active endeavor will entail for our economically distressed brethren. There is, insofar as the more fortunate of us are concerned, the inner satisfaction at the thought that thereby we give expression to the natural passion for righteousness and the innate sense of justice that animate each and every one of us. There is the very real effect that the well-being of the masses enhances even further the happy situation of the favored few.

You have given the late President as I have noted earlier and for which I have commended you, your enthusiastic cooperation. You have thereby lightened his task. You did so freely and willingly because, like so many other Filipinos, you were close to him.

There is more to it, however. Your feeling must have transcended the purely personal. Of all groups, you are in the vanguard of enlightened capitalism. You realize that the problem of the 20th century is the betterment of the economic and social conditions without which further progress is impossible.

The free way of life to which we are dedicated is now under test. Its battle for the allegiance of men's mind and men's hearts, while progressing satisfactorily, has not been fully won. This is not to underestimate the heroic proportion of the successes attained here in the Philippines by my distinguished predecessor. Communism is on the run, but the problem of poverty has not been fully solved. The opportunity for striking mightier blows is therefore ours. I know you will not let it go.

With clearness of vision, with unfaltering faith, and with resolute determination we can fight together. The victory that is within arm's reach will soon be ours. We shall not be worthy of it unless that passionate sense for social justice which we profess and our uncompromising belief in the dignity of every one of us be translated into reality. It is not enough that we proclaim it in stentorian tones. We must act with vigor. We must act with energy. We must act now.

With every resource at our command thus fully and effectively utilized, we can hope within our lifetime, within the very near future, as a matter of fact, to obtain for all of us here in this country we love so much, the full blessings of a constitutional system, the full flowering of a regime of liberty, justice, and democracy.

The opportunity for further service to the country is yours. I ask and challenge you now to grasp it.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines College of Law Library**

## **Speech of President Garcia on Labor Day, May 1, 1957**

### **PRESIDENT GARCIA'S LABOR DAY SPEECH DELIVERED WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 1, 1957, AT THE INDEPENDENCE MEMORIAL GRANDSTAND**

MINAMAHAL KONG BAYANG MANGGAGAWA:

NAGLAKAS loob ako na sa malaking pagtitipong ito, ay gamitin ko ang sarili nating wika, sa nais ko na makausap ko kayo ng puso sa puso, sa kabila ng nalalaman ng lahat na ito ay may kaunting kahirapan para sa akin. Kung magkulang man ako sa aking pangungusap, alamin ninyo na kayong lahat ay mahal sa akin.

Nagpapasalamat ako sa inyong lahat sa pagkakataong ibinigay ninyo sa akin ngayon. Ito ay hindi ko na malilimutan habang ako ay nabubuhay.

Taon-taon, pagsapit ng unang araw ng Mayo, ang buong bayang Filipino ay nagdiriwang sa ngalan ng mga manggagawa, ng mga maliliit, mahihirap, at anak-pawis. Ito ay isang pagkilala ng utang na loob ng bayan sa inyong lahat. Sapagka't, kung walang manggagawa, walang bayang Filipino.

Batid ko, na napakalaki ang nawala sa atin sa pagkamatay ni Presidente Magsaysay. Siya'y idolo at kaibigan ng lahat ng manggagawa. Napakalaki ng nagawa niya para sa atin. Kayo ay kaniyang ipinagtanggol. Kaya't ngayon, sa ilalim ng kagustuhan ng Dios na Makapangya-rihan, sa aking kamay napasalin ang ating pamahalaan. Ipagpapatuloy ko ang lahat ng simulain ni Presidente Magsaysay. Kayo ay aking ipagtatanggol; kayo ay aking tutulungan. Ang inyong kaligayahan ang siyang magiging Biblia ng aking panunungkulan.

Alam ko ang paghihirap ng isang manggagawa, sapagka't ako ay isang mahirap din. Ang mga luha na tumutulo sa inyong mga mata ay mga luha na tumutulo rin sa aking mga mata.

Kayat hinihingi ko ang inyong pagtitiwala at umasa kayo na hindi mabibigo ang inyong mga pangarap.

Hinihingi ko sa inyo na tulungan ninyo itong ating pamahalaan at ako ay tutulong sa inyo. Sabihin ninyo sa akin ang inyong suliranin, at magkayakap tayong hahanapin ang lunas sa mga suliraning iyan. Lahat ng inyong daing ay bibigyan ko ng katarungan.

Pinatibayan ko sa ating Congreso ang kahalagahan ng "Social Security Bill" sapagka't ito ay magbibigay ng katatagan at kaligayahan sa lahat ng manggagawa sa ating bayan.

Pagtitibayin ko ang "Apprenticeship Bill" kung napag-tibay na ng ating Congreso.

Ang ano mang Bill sa Congreso na sa kabutihan ng manggagawa ay pipirmahan ko, at ang lahat naman ng Bill na hindi mabuti para sa inyo ay bebetohan ko.

Tutulong ako upang lumaganap sa ating bayan ang kilusan ng mga union ng manggagawa. Tinatawagan ko ang mga lider ng mga union sa ating bayan na maging malinis at tapat sa kanilang tungkulin. Sapagka't kung ang mga lider ay hindi tapat at hindi malinis, hindi magtatagumpay ang ating mga layunin.

Ibig kong malaman ninyo na ang pamahalaang ito ay sisikapang malunasan kaagad ang suliranin ng mga walang hanap-buhay. Ito ay gagawin ko hindi sa salita kung hindi sa gawa.

Mga kababayan: sa araw na ito, bilang inyong Pangulo, isinusumpa ko sa inyo, hindi maaaring maapi ang mga manggagawa sa ilalim ng pamahalaang ito. Bilang pagtatapos, nais kong malaman ninyo na, si Carlos P. Garcia, kagaya ni Ramon Magsaysay, ay kaibigan ninyo, at tapat na nagmamahal sa inyo.

Mabuhay kayong lahat at maraming salamat.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Speech of President Garcia before the Chicago Club, Saturday Night, May 4, at the Aristocrat Pavilion**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH BEFORE THE CHICAGO CLUB, SATURDAY NIGHT, MAY 4, AT THE ARISTOCRAT PAVILION**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

WHEN the invitation was extended to me to join you this evening, especially after I have been apprised that this occasion is a get-together of many of our fellow-citizens who have for sometime sojourned in the United States, I thought that it would be a momentous opportunity to address a group of leaders in their various fields of endeavor.

Filipinos like you who have gone to United States at the beginning of the century up to the middle 20th are hailed as pioneers in the advancement of our country's educational, social, and economic life. In a true pioneering spirit, you have ventured all over the American continent in your desire to be imbued with democratic ideas and advanced educational training.

Your vision and enterprising spirit in going to that great country many years ago, in some ways, is comparable to the great adventure undertaken by the Pilgrim Fathers. But while those American forefathers sailed to the World seeking to develop for themselves a freer and more contented way of life, you have gone there urged by the thirst for knowledge, and by a desire to learn and assimilate the good ways of life in that bulwark of democracy and prosperity; and thereafter, to share with our people the rich stores of knowledge and experiences you have amassed during your sojourn there. It is because of this fact that when you came back to our country, you were looked upon as enlightened citizens fully prepared to lead our people, or help guide them during our formative years as a nation. I have much thrust that you will not deny now our countrymen the rich values of your inspiration, guidance, and leadership.

My friends, I have assumed the stewardship of our Ship of State under very tragic circumstances, when our great and beloved President Ramon Magsaysay was snatched from our midst by the hand of God. His passing is, indeed, a great loss for all of us, at a time when we need him most. I have taken the helm after him, with the firm resolve to dedicate my total efforts to lead our people to finish the tremendous task he so nobly and dynamically began; and I call upon you and all our countrymen to share in our gigantic struggle to build our country into a stronger, more prosperous, and tranquil one.

We and the whole free world admire and embrace the great ideals and principles which our late President stood for and labored so much to achieve. It behoves all of us Filipinos to work together to attain the goals towards which his administration was dedicated.

Foremost among these is our relentless fight against a godless ideology that seeks to disrupt and destroy our orderly democratic processes. As men schooled in the ideals of democracy, it is incumbent upon you to lead our people in that struggle. The high esteem and confidence reposed in you by our fellow-citizens certainly place you in good stead to help crush the enemies of democracy in our land.

So varied and multifarious are the problems of our country today that their solutions call for the services of fellow-citizens and groups of citizens, such as you, who have been trained in various fields,—social, economic, and political.

One of the greatest challenges faced by any administration in our country is the amelioration of the lot of the masses,—the teeming millions living in our rural areas. It is to the everlasting credit of the late President Magsaysay that the Government under his devoted leadership during the past few years, extended to our brethren in the farms and barrios solicitous care and assistance. We intend to pursue this policy as vigorously as he did.

But, of course this is only one of the many ways by which we can realize the uplift of our lowlier countrymen. There are so many more things to be done,—and with greater efforts and unity and true dedication, they could be done, whereby our people can rise from the morass and poverty and economic misery.

It has been said that the root of most of the problems of mankind is economic. I think this is true. At least it is true of our people in the Philippines today, and of the people of so many nations all over the world, especially among the submerged races in the less developed areas of the earth.

It is for this reason that much emphasis is being extended by the Administration to the solution of our economic problems.

With the natural wealth and resources that a provident God has endowed our country, there is no reason why we could not provide our people with better shelters, better foods, more comforts in life,—if only the national effort should be geared with determination towards this end. We can not do these things overnight; we can not achieve our avowed goals amidst petty squabbles, intrigues, and greed. We need to be guided by sound economic statesmanship and a genuine concern for those who have less in life; and not only leaders in the government can share in the gigantic task of nation-building, but also civic-spirited and enlightened citizens such as you, members of this Club.

I have spoken of pernicious ideology that is daily seeking to spread its ugly tentacles among free men: communism. Let us ever be on the alert, lest this merciless, soulless, treacherous way of life again attempt to creep into the lives of our people.

This is not a problem of our country alone. It is the problem of all free men to the free world who endear freedom as life itself, and who have been witnesses to the miserable plight of those nations who have fallen victims to the scythe of communism.

Yes, freedom is such a priceless thing that men die fighting to preserve it. Look at what happened to Hungary. Even boys and girls in their teens joined their compatriots in a historic protest against their ruthless rulers for denial of their freedom, and with outmoded rifles or homemade gasoline grenades or stones or their bare fists, battled with the tanks and the artilleries the mass infantries of communism.

In this crucial struggle against this ideology, our country has been fit to join the democracies, under the leadership of the United States of America, and we intend to maintain this alliance.

Aware that this part of the world is being eyed with watchful waiting by the overlords of communism, we have also joined our Asian brothers in the formation of a South East Asian Treaty that is dedicated to our collective security. In this organization the United States is again a member of the alliance. This is, for us Filipinos, significant, because of our special relations with that great country which has helped us a great deal in surmounting the many difficulties and problems we have encountered since we regained our independence in 1946.

My friends, I like to consider you, who have spent many good years in the United States, as constituting a great span of that bridge of friendship and understanding that links our two countries together; and I appeal to you to keep that spirit of kinship with America burning warm and bright.

We are a young nation, and in our endeavor to develop a fuller and more tranquil life, we can benefit much from the lessons of history and from the rise of progressive nations of today, like America. With more men like you, with the native genius of our race and with the moral fiber of our people—with all these factors joined together, and guided by a Government and an Administration that is truly inspired by the devotion and dedication of the late President Magsaysay, I can envision a bright and hopeful picture for our country, and that we will, in due time, become a true rampart of prosperity, peace, and freedom.

*Source: **University of the Philippines College of Law Library***





**Speech of President Garcia before the National Seminar on Human Rights, May 6, 1957**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
Before the National Seminar on Human Rights**

*[Delivered at the Institute of Science Building, P. G. H. Compound on May 6, 1957]*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND FRIENDS:

I THANK the Planning Committee of this seminar for this opportunity to speak at the opening session. You, the delegates are to be congratulated for this seminar. I know your deliberations will be productive of permanent results for the good of our citizenry. I know that you have come to learn from one another in a spirit of broad tolerance.

Your slogan, "Understanding of and Respect for Human Rights", is sound and praise-worthy. It is not sufficient merely to understand our rights: we must in addition respect the rights of others. We can claim our individual rights only in proportion as we respect the rights of others. This is the life and essence of democracy.

I am pleased to note here that our distinguished Ambassador Felixberto Serrano has been chosen chairman of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights which recently held its conference in Geneva. This is a just recognition of his merits and at the same time it affords an opportunity for the Philippines to be of some service to the world in the significant task of fostering human rights. He has come to Manila to help organize the Regional Conference on Human Rights under the auspices of the United Nations, to be held in the Philippines sometime this year. The Philippine Government heartily welcomes the representatives of friendly nations who come here to agree upon plans for this regional seminar, and I am glad to offer every possible assistance looking toward the success of the coming conference.

Now I wish to comment briefly on the tasks of the five study groups of this national seminar.

I understand these groups are on Civic and Political Rights, on Women's Rights, on Rights of Minorities, on Freedom of Information, and on Social and Economic Rights.

First, as to the group on Civic and Political Rights. These rights which refer to the security of life, liberty, and property are fortunately not new in our country. In the Malolos Constitution our representatives consecrated individual rights and liberties as they formulated that document, which founded the first democratic government in the Far East. We, as a people, are privileged to be the inheritors of the achievements of both Europe and America in the struggle for liberty. Through our happy and fruitful association with the American people for nearly half a century until our political independence in 1946, we have had a healthy and practical training in the exercise of individual rights and liberties as developed in the history of the United States. We are heirs to a rich heritage of freedom from our own forefathers even before the Philippine Revolution of 1896. The restless Malays in immemorial ages left their ancient abodes somewhere in Southeast Asia to seek freedom and a better way of life. And it is a historical fact that throughout the nearly four centuries of Spanish regime in the Philippines there has been a long series of local or regional uprisings against the Spanish rule. These revolts were in vindication of the rights of our forefathers.

This seminar will, I know, help in the greater enlightenment of our people concerning their civic and political rights. It is through the unceasing endeavors of each and every nation to cultivate an increasing understanding and respect for human rights that the cause of universal democracy will be saved. Let us do our own share in our country so that it may never be said that through our neglect or indifference that great cause of freedom has suffered.

Secondly, as to women's rights. Fortunately for our country, the new Civil Code which became effective in July, 1950, has removed the civil disabilities of married women in the Philippines. This was a far-reaching advance in this sector of the globe where in most countries women are still fighting for their legal rights in the family as well as with regard to property and contracts. Moreover, the Filipino woman was among the first to have obtained the right of suffrage. I am glad to know that the Filipino woman has brought to bear a wholesome influence on our political affairs. I wish for the Filipino woman greater participation in public life and an increasing recognition of the value and significance of their cooperation in the solution of our national problems.

Thirdly, I am happy to note that there is a group that will study the rights of minorities. For example our brothers and countrymen, the Moslems in the South, should enjoy the amplest freedom in the exercise of their religion and should be encouraged in the development of their culture. As for the minority political parties, they may rest assured that I shall never lift a finger or utter a single word that may deprive them of an equal and untrammelled freedom in the discussion of the issues which they may present to our people. Nor will I ever counterance any act that may render it difficult for them to express their will through the polls. I am fully cognizant that one of the acid tests of Democracy is the clear awareness on the part of the majority party of its solemn responsibility to respect the rights of the minorities, and I am not unmindful of the lesson of experience that the majority party that rides roughshod over the minorities is on its way to taking the place of the latter.

Fourthly, on the group that will study freedom of information, I need not say that I am unconditionally and irrevocably for the freedom of the press. I am firmly persuaded that more effective than the restraint imposed by law is the restraint imposed by the press upon itself. Those who are devoting their lives to the press realize that true freedom is responsible freedom.

Lastly, with respect to the social and economic rights, inasmuch as these are new in formulation of human rights in the past, I shall quote some of the statements of the Universal Declaration which refer to social and economic rights:

“ARTICLE 23. (1) Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work, and to protection against unemployment.

(2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

(3) Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary by other means of social protection.

(4) Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

“ARTICLE 25. (1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing, and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age, or other lack of livelihood in circumstance beyond his control.”

In a sense, these articles are the distinct contribution of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to the formulation of principles for human amelioration. However, they had been preceded by over a decade by the conservation of social justice in our present Constitution. And when the Atlantic Charter added freedom from want as one of the four freedoms, it paved the way for more solemn and more detailed declaration of the social and economic rights of individuals in the United Nations document. Our late beloved President Magsaysay devoted himself wholeheartedly to the uplifting of the life of the orphans of Fortune who upon his death so touchingly demonstrated their gratitude. I have often declared, and I do now reiterate that it is my firm resolve to do my utmost to carry on in the pursuit of his objective. I have supported and will support the new Social Security Bill, and also the Apprenticeship Bill, both of which are pending before Congress. I shall apply myself particularly to the solution of the unemployment problem. I was glad to witness in the May First Labor demonstration the growing consciousness on the part of the laborers of their social responsibility. I reiterate my pledge to give full protection to the free labor movement in our country. But I earnestly hope that labor and management will come to visualize more

and more the absolute necessity of their working together, for indeed it is only through their intelligent and patriotic cooperation that they may be of service to our country.

In closing, I wish this national seminar all manner of success. May it help bring about a growing understanding of and respect for human rights.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines College of Law Library**

**Speech of President Garcia before the Philippine Electric Plant Operators Association, Monday Afternoon, May 6, at the Manila Hotel**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH BEFORE THE PHILIPPINE ELECTRIC PLANT OPERATORS ASSOCIATION, MONDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 6, AT THE MANILA HOTEL**

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE ELECTRIC PLANT OPERATORS ASSOCIATION, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I WISH to thank very sincerely the officers and members of this association for the invitation to be with you this afternoon, and for the privilege of addressing this convention. I feel a community of interest with you in your earnest belief in the important role of electricity in our development as a nation and in your desire to accelerate that development through the widest use of electricity in our homes, farms, and factories. I wish to commend you for your part in bringing this general objective about.

I am informed that the members of your organization, exclusive of the Manila Electric Company, are presently serving approximately 180,000 customers, or a total of 800,000 people outside of the Manila franchise area which includes some of the remote districts and towns of the Philippines. That you have attained some measure of success in carrying this service to your customers can be inferred from the fact that in the areas served the use of electricity in the homes and shops is now taken for granted in much the same way as the other daily necessities. It is a well established fact that in the last few years much has been done by the various members of your group to improve, extend, and popularize the use of electricity.

It is thus a matter of genuine satisfaction to us to note the sizeable strides that have been attained by the Philippines in the expansion of the electric industry during the last decade. Starting from the ruins of the last war when practically all generating facilities were destroyed, we have rebuilt and augmented our electric facilities to the point where we now have in terms of capacity about four times what we had before the war. The progress has been such that our electric energy consumption per capita annually has risen to 54.8 Kwh as of last year, before the completion of Ambuklao, compared to 29.2 Kwh for 1951 and about 13 Kwh just before the outbreak of the war. In terms of capacity of central electric station plants, we now have in operation about 330,000 KW compared to 78,000 KW in 1938.

But while definite progress has been achieved as shown by these figures, our present per capita electric consumption is still far below those of more developed nations which indicates that still much remain to be done. Compared with our 54.8 Kwh per capita per annum, the corresponding figures for some of the other countries are as follows: Canada, 4,830; United States, 3,220; Sweden, 1,734; United Kingdom, 1,314; Japan, 625; Porto Rico, 315; Formosa, 179.

Considering that the per capita consumption of electric energy is one of the reliable indices of the extent of a nation's industrial development and progress, these figures should convince us that we should do much more in the development of our electric power resources and in the industrial use of such power to enhance our productive capacity.

Not so long ago, an English paper published a paragraph which reads as follows:

"If our children are going to produce twice as much as we do, they are not going to do it by working harder than we do or by being cleverer than we are but by having twice as many inanimate slaves to assist them. The way to plenty is to build up the national capital of machines, of buildings to house them, of power to drive them, and of communications between them."

I am certain that the reason for the prosperity of other advanced countries and their enjoyment of more of the necessities, conveniences, comforts, and luxuries of modern life is their ability to produce more goods and services than the others. And the reason why they produce more is because their productive strength has been multiplied enormously by what the writer previously referred to calls "inanimate slaves"—the power, the tools, and the

machines of modern industry,—of which they have more than the other countries of the world per capita. They have ceased to depend, as we do largely still, on the physical efforts of human beings. So, among the urgent needs of our country is the development of its power resources mainly, its native water power and fuel, while at the same time we are equipping our workers with the tools and devices which, making use of that power, will produce wealth and goods for our people. In this undertaking, the government and private enterprise should join forces in a genuine spirit of cooperation, one being supplementary and complementary to the other.

Following the realization of this great need, the government as you all know, through the National Power Corporation has been undertaking a continuing accelerated program of construction of power facilities. Up to now, the National Power Corporation has completed or is in the process of completion 14 projects with a total capacity of about 170,000 ,KW, including the Caliraya-Lumot, the two units of Maria Cristina, Ambuklao, and several small projects with a total capacity of 220,000 KW. this will include the Binga in the Mt. Province and Marikina in Rizal to serve the increasing industrial loads of Manila and North and Central Luzon, the Maria Cristina No. 3 to provide additional cheap power for steel, fertilizer, and other electro-metallurgical and electro-chemical industries, and several small projects in Camarines Sur, Sorsogon, Bukidnon, Cebu, Oriental Negros, Basilan, Quezon, Leyte, and Davao to supply-the domestic uses and light and cottage industries in those areas. Within the next five years, the corporation is planning to start other projects totaling 120,000 KW more. All these projects are expected to meet the rapidly increasing demands of industry as well as the increasing utilization of electricity by the people in their daily lives.

Under its rural electrification program, the National Power Corporation is also presently installing transmission and distribution facilities in Central and Northern Luzon and in Laguna and Batangas which will form part of what in the future will be a huge power network to make available to consumers of electricity plenty of cheap reliable electric power. This program is pursued with the main objective of alleviating the living conditions in the rural areas. It will incidently provide the necessary power for light and medium industries and check the growing tendencies of too much overcrowding in the urban areas.

Thermal plants for areas uneconomical to supply with hydro power and for firming up existing hydroelectric units-to increase the latter's utility, will also be built. It is for this phase of our country's power development program that we have to rely largely on private enterprise, on members of your association, as patriotic Filipinos, to participate more actively and vigorously, using Filipino capital, technical know-how, and labor with the end in view of greater self-sufficiency and independence of this facet of our economic life which is so vital to our national interest.

Following the long established policy of the government, to give the fullest encouragement to private enterprise, the government has distributed its electric energy output through existing franchise holders. To the extent consistent with the welfare of the ultimate consumers, the government will certainly continue to sell its power output through the private electric operators for distribution by them. It will, therefore, be your responsibility to see to it that this plentiful supply of electricity are delivered to the consumers efficiently and at the lowest possible cost which will encourage their fullest utilization in productive undertakings.

I mentioned the item of cost deliberately. It is not enough that we should have plenty of electric power. It is likewise important that this power, to be useful as an instrument of production, is supplied to the ultimate consumers at the minimum cost possible. I am advised that the national average cost of power in the country is 6.9 centavos per kilowatt hour. Some systems charge much more than this figure. These rates are too high for our low income groups to meet, or to encourage competitive industrial use. We have to bring the rates down, and I will urge you to deliberate painstakingly on measures to bring down the rates.

The government, by utilizing to the fullest extent economical hydro-power resources, by lowering further the cost of financing, by systems interconnections, and effective coordination of hydro and thermal units, will do its part in bringing down the cost of power to the consumers. The power utilities, on the other hand, should cooperate in this regard and bring down their cost to the customers by more efficient operation, by discarding of units already uneconomical to operate, by improved management, by reduced overhead, and by application of more advanced technical methods. We will rely on the Public. Service Commission to supervise the distribution and retailing of government generated power by private franchise holders. Only in clear cases where franchises are abused against

the public welfare, where electric rates remain unreasonably high, and where the public is mercilessly exploited, that the government will intervene and adopt other measures to protect the people.

As I stated a while ago, the electric power industry is a joint undertaking between the government and private enterprises. You have a large measure of the joint responsibility. In all ways possible and reasonable, you may rely on the government for assistance so that you may better discharge your end of the bargain. The Administration will bend all efforts to the end that you can get the power supply from the government at lowest rates consistent with the safety of the investment. I will see that you can secure the necessary dollar allocations for your valid requirements for important equipment and supplies. The Administration will see that you should be able to secure adequate credit accommodations from financial institutions at the lowest interest rates applicable. You can get technical assistance when needed.

It is a hopeless cause to make the high existing rates still higher. Private enterprises are entitled to reasonable profit but this should not be made by excessive rates, but rather by efficient service, economical operation, and expansion of markets—with low rates but large volume of sales.

In this manner you can serve your customers best and more than that you will be playing your important role in the development of our country effectively and well. In this manner, too, you can help maximize our multiplication of the productive capacity of our people by making available to them the millions of “inanimate slaves” that will do the work for us and make possible the rate of economic growth that we all aspire for.

Once again, I wish to commend you for your efforts and hope for your success in your deliberations.

I would like to conclude by saying that the people’s well-being is the supreme objective of the Administration. The private enterprises in this country supplying the people’s industrial power can grow bigger and stronger and more prosperous by the building up of more and bigger industries among the people which can be obtained only by cheap industrial power. I know the Philippine Electric Plant Operators Association will rise equal to the grand task of making the Philippines one of the biggest powers of Asia.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines College of Law Library**

**Speech of President Garcia at Palanan (Makati, Rizal) Town Fiesta, May 10, 1957**

**SPEECH OF PRESIDENT GARCIA AT PALANAN (MAKATI, RIZAL) TOWN FIESTA, FRIDAY EVENING, MAY 10, 1957**

MGA KAIBIGAN:

NANG ibalita sa aking ang yumaong Pangulo'y may naiwang pangakong pagdalaw dito sa nayon ng Palanan, bayan ng Makati, ay sinagutan ko agad ang pagdalo rito sapagka't pinaninindigan ko ang pagpapatuloy sa mga gawaing sinimulan ni Presidente Ramon Magsaysay. Hindi kaila sa inyong ako'y di-miminsang humawak ng mahahalagang tungkulin sa aming lalawigan. Ako'y makailang nahalal na punong-lalawigan at kinatawan ng aming purok. Nitong dakong huli'y pinagkatiwalaan na rin ako ng mga mamamayang maglingkod sa kanila bilang isang senador at pangalawang pangulo ng bansa. Ang masasabi ko sa inyo ay wala akong sandatang ginamit sa simula't simula pa, kungdi ang pag-ibig at pagkalinga sa aking mga nasasakupan, lalong-lalo na sa mga maralitang katulad ko. Wala akong babating ginamit na pananggol laban sa mga paghamak at pagsira sa aking munting katauhan kundi ang, kagitingan ng paninindigan sa mga simulaing sinumpaan kong itataguyod at dalhin sa ruok ng tagumpay. Ngayong italaga ng Tadhanang balikatin ko ang maselan at mabigat na tungkuling naiwan ng ating minamahal na Pangulong Magsaysay, ay tinitiyak ko sa inyong hindi ako magkukulang sa pagpapahalaga sa sinumpaan niyang panatang pagkalinga sa kapakanan ng maliliit, sapagka't sa ganang sarili, ito ay isang simulaing hindi hiram lamang kundi katutubo, palibhasa'y katulad ni Pangulong Magsaysay, ako ay ipinanganak din sa banig ng karalitaan.

Itong inyong bayan ng Makati ay mapalad. Kayrami at dumarami pa ang mga pagawaang intinatayo dito, hindi lamang ng ating mga kalahi kundi gayon din ng mga dayuhan. Ang dati'y mga tiwangwang ninyong lupain ay namumutiktik sa mga tahanan ngayon at ang lahat ng ito ay nakatutulong sa pagbibigay ng kaunting lunas sa suliraning ng kawalan ng hanap-buhay at nakatutulong din nang malaki sa pananagana ng kabang-yaman ng inyong bayan. Nguni't, kung papaanong ang mga biyaya ay may katumbas na pananagutan, ang biglang pagunlad ng bayang ito ay nagiging isang hamon sa kakayahan ng ating pamahalaan upang maiangkop sa pagkakasulong nito ang ayos ng ating mga gawaing-bayan, katulad ng mga lansangan at mga padaluyan ng tubig; kaakibat din nito ang pagdaragdag ng ating mga paaralang bayan at pagtangkilik sa mga tangga-pang nag-aalaga sa kalusugan at kalinisan ng mga mamamayan lalong-lalo na sa mga ina at mga sanggol.

Marami pang mga pangangailangan ang inyong madarama nang unti-unti sa pagpapaunlad ng inyong bayan. Kasalukuyang nagsisikap ang pamahalaan upang malutas ang inyong mga suliranin, subali't nalalaman na ninyong batang-bata pa ang ating barisa at nasusuong tayo sa mga kagipitan at pangangailangan sa pagpapatatag ng ating pagsasarili, kaya ang inyong tulong, ang tulong ng bawa't mamamayang Pilipino, ang kailangan ng pamahalaang ito upang sa pamamagitan ng ating lubusang pagkakauriwaan at pagdaramayan ay maihatid natin ang ating bansa sa tugatog ng tagumpay.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library



**Speech of President Garcia at the Testimonial Parade given by the AFP in his Honor at Camp Murphy, Saturday Morning, May 11, 1957**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH AT THE TESTIMONIAL PARADE GIVEN BY THE AFP IN HIS HONOR AT CAMP MURPHY, SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 11, 1957**

**MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES:**

IN my capacity as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, I accept with deep appreciation, nay, with boundless gratitude, your manifestation of loyalty. This is more than an individual—insignificant as he is in the universal scheme—could ask of his fellowmen. I would rather that, in this demonstration of fealty, you find added fervor in consecrating the ideals and principles upon which the nation's armed forces stand. For principles can withstand, in fact, ignore, the destructive forces of time and events, the latter is easily shorn of its foothold by the first high wind that blows. It is to principles that ultimate loyalty should be accorded. It is ideals that move history: men are but its instrument.

I am fully aware that you are endowed with this larger sense of loyalty for I have watched with keen admiration your past and present performance. In a very real and positive sense, you have been the vigilant guardians of our way of life and freedom. Whether it be in Bataan, in Korea, or the Sierra Madres, it was you in the Armed Forces who bore the brunt of the struggle against the dark and corrupting forces of the enemies of freedom. It was particularly in the anti-dissident campaign where you have grown in the esteem of your countrymen. For you have amply demonstrated to all and sundry that you are not merely soldiers with deadly weapons of combat but equally soldiers endowed with a social conscience. My illustrious predecessor, Ramon Magsaysay, has articulated your two-dimensional approach to the dissident problem in his now internationally famous policy of "All-out-Force and All out Friendship." I pledge to carry on with this time-tested and effective policy.

1951 and 1953 are milestones in your growth towards political maturity and responsible citizenry. In those memorable years, you won incalculable victories for democracy. You kept faith with our people in insuring the free and untrammelled expression of their choice.

Once again we are embroiled in the heat and passion of a national election. Should you be called upon again by our people to stand vigil, I enjoin each and every one of you to see to it that the sanctity of the ballot is held inviolate.

I am equally aware of your participation in various international undertakings designed to strengthen the defense of the free world. Your exploits in Korea are veritable sagas of heroism; across conference tables, the vigor, the enthusiasm, the freshness and novelty of your approach to vital security problems have evoked recognition and acclaim. This I can say with authority, for in most of these conferences it was a source of endless pride to me that I have worked with you in formulating the Philippine position

It is but fitting and proper, therefore, that with such splendid achievements, you deserve the gratitude of our people. It, is fortunate, perhaps, that in my present position, I can translate this gratitude into a more tangible and appreciable form. At present there is a bill in Congress which proposes to increase the pay of enlisted ranks of the Armed Forces. Should it pass both Houses—as I have high hopes it will—I assure you that I will immediately stamp my official approval to make it into a law. I shall also look with favor on future measures designed to improve your welfare.

Gentlemen of the Armed Forces, to me this parade is but an emphatic symbolism. Your performance here and abroad, the tenacious professionalism you have demonstrated in preparing yourselves and your organization to enhance effective Guardianship of our way of life—all of which point to your unreserved willingness to lay down your lives in defense of our ideals, are the greater and more intrinsic testimonials of loyalty to your leader and the country he must only represent. For all these, allow me, even as your Commander-in-Chief, to salute you!

*Source:* University of the Philippines College of Law Library



**Speech of President Garcia before the Rural Bankers Association's 4th Annual, Convention, May 18, 1957**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH BEFORE THE RURAL BANKERS ASSOCIATION'S 4TH ANNUAL, CONVENTION, SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 18, 1957, AT THE PINES HOTEL, BAGUIO CITY**

MR. PRESIDENT,  
MEMBERS OF THE RURAL BANKERS ASSOCIATION,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

YOUR tenacity in cooperating with the government to alleviate the conditions of the rural folks is very encouraging. Undoubtedly, it is worthy of emulation. Your spirit of sustained efforts to improve the welfare of the rural folks poses a challenge to the government which is your partner in the enterprise of rural amelioration. The government, not wishing to be accused of being recreant in its duties, can do no less than the enthusiasm and vigor that the private sector has shown in the development of rural banking in the economy. Towards this end, the government will continue to provide the proper incentive, encouragement, and environment to the healthy development and growth of rural banks in this country. I want to reiterate that this policy of private rural bankers-government partnership shall be encouraged under the most harmonious conditions which will prove conducive not only to the greater initiative of private businessmen, but also to the expansion of rural banks which will ultimately redound to the economic and social well-being of the people.

When the Nacionalista administration was put into office by an overwhelming majority by the people in 1953, one of the foremost commitments made by the party to the people was the rural amelioration program which was designed to improve the lot of the common *tao* and bring back the government nearer to him. The development of rural banking was one of the measures designed to bring to fruition a commitment intended to enhance immediately the productive capacity of the rural areas, to improve the social stature of the barrio folk, and to make him feel once more as part and parcel of the government. The rural banking program was mainly designed to improved the productive and earning capacity of the small farmers and tenants in the country. Rural banking is one of the facets by which the government is trying to increase productive efficiency and bring improvement to the rural areas. This is only a part of the concentrated effort to free the rural folks from economic stagnation due to the lack of opportunities and facilities for the development of their faculties, resources, and capacities. Alongside with the development of the rural banks, the government has relentlessly invested big sums of money for fertilizers, portable irrigation pumps, construction of irrigation systems, establishment of agricultural extension service, and improvement in education and rural health. The role of rural banking in the promotion of the well-being of the masses is vital not only because it deals with money, but also because the effects of its operation are more pervasive and long enduring to the man of the barrio. Rural banks now provide the heart throb of economic activity in the rural areas, giving the spark of economic movement and also sustaining the continuous and smooth economic transition of the country.

Concerned over the rural areas' stultifying stagnancy and its profound implications, the Administration has greatly centered its policies and measures to rural amelioration and development to impart greater meaning and positive attitude to the massive 75 per cent of the population which composes the bigger portion of the dichotomous structure of the economy. Confronted with the vexations problems of poverty, disease, ignorance, and civic inertia, a formidable task looms ahead to crash successfully through this four-headed barrier. Several attempts in the past to reconstruct the area have failed principally because of the failure to recognize, as a formidable weapon, the transformative force of community development through the spirit of self-help. This "sense of belonging" is thus intensely exploited to weld together the community and serve as the springboard for self and community improvement.

The many-sided socio-economic ills in the rural areas have exercised a drag on rural progress. Low per capita farm income has kept the area in perpetual poverty. The causes are rooted in a number of unsatisfactory conditions. Inequitable distribution of landholdings has kept 700,000 out of the 1.6 million individual farmer-tenants subject to exploitative tenancy conditions and unequal share-cropping arrangements. Antiquated cultivation methods employed have produced insufficient remunerative returns. Alien-middlemen control of marketing facilities have enabled them to dictate prices and manipulate the market to exploit the farmer of very limited financial resources, In this respect, capital assumes a vital role. The dearth of credit facilities has thrown the farmers into the vicious clutch of usurious

private money lenders. In effect, the impact of lack of credit on tolerable terms has fundamentally distressed the very segment of our population which has long been neglected, ignored, and taken for granted.

Other factors have strained the rural sector. The relatively set ways and low level of education found among the rural population cry out for improved facilities for general education and for vocational training that can help them become more skilled workers and earn larger incomes. The task of overcoming the set ways has assumed massive proportions; as superstitious belief has prevented them from fully appreciating the benefits to be derived from the proper use of modern facilities. Improved health and nutrition should be promoted to raise productivity and improve their economic status.

Against this backdrop of nagging ills, rural banks have been thrown in to tackle the most pressing economic need of the area—provision for adequate amounts of credit at easy terms and within reach and access of the farmers. As financial institutions, rural banks encounter the complicated task of granting credit free from orthodox bias. The stubborn emphasis on property as basis for the extension of credit definitively disqualifies the very segment of the population needed to be alleviated. In most cases, loans and advances have to be based on character alone.

Rural banks have served a two-pronged purpose: that of minimizing the pernicious practice of usury and maximizing production to bring farm income to a fair level. These banks tend to promote a strong agricultural sector to provide basis for progressive industrialization.

The unrelented promotion campaign conducted by the government through the Central Bank of the Philippines has resulted in a tremendous progress in the establishment of a strong system of rural credit designed to meet the short-term credit needs of small borrowers. The year that has just passed has been noteworthy for the rural banks development in this country, not only in the establishment of new rural banks, but also in the magnitude of rural lending operations. Numerous government entities such as the Central Bank, the Philippine National Bank, and the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation continued to assist the numerous rural banks through the rediscounting of commercial securities and the subscription to the capital stock which greatly bolstered their lending capacity. As of today there are 84 rural banks in operation all over the country, 37 of which were organized during 1956. At present there are 49 banks accepting current account deposits. In addition to these rural banks now in operation, 31 other rural banks have been authorized by the Monetary Board to operate as of April 10, 1957, but which have not started actual operation. Applications to establish rural banks have been continuously received by the Central Bank from other groups of investors.

The present geographical pattern of the rural banking system is mostly concentrated in Luzon. Without hampering the further growth of these banks in this area, the government will try to encourage the establishment of more rural banks in the Visayas and Mindanao regions which, heretofore, have utterly lacked the banking facilities that could help the people improve their economic lot. Rural bank lending during 1956 can also be pointed out with great pride. Total loans granted by the rural banking system aggregated more than ₱18 million as compared to ₱6.7 million in 1953. The bulk of these loans went to agriculture, accounting for as much as ₱11.7 million during the year. A healthy feature of this growth in the lending operation of rural banks is that most of the loans were for small amounts, generally not more than ₱500.00. This candidly points out the fact that rural banks, on the overall, have been serving the purpose for which they have been created. It is likewise worthy to note that the institution of rural banking has been slowly accepted by rural bankers as part of their economic life. Greater confidence and reliance on these banking institutions will further boost the business of the private entrepreneur and at the same time help the rural folks attain their dream of economic advancement. The progress so far made by the rural banks, has been heavily promoted by the government not only by means of financial assistance but also by the extension of a program of rigorous training and technical guidance of bank personnel, through farm advisory service and by periodic check-up and supervision by the Central Bank. Modern banking practice as observed in other countries where more advance and well developed rural banking techniques exist, has been made in integral part of the training program of bank personnel. In this connection, the supervisory echelon of rural banks has been advised to give primary consideration to the character and capacity of the borrower rather than to the adequacy of the security covering the loan.

I wish to reiterate my desire to give the program for rural advancement sustained emphasis and to continue the efforts that my predecessor has effectively exerted in bringing the program to more concrete and tangible terms. My

critics and political detractors notwithstanding, I shall sustain the policy of the Administration of assigning top priority to the amelioration of the economic and social status of the inhabitants of the rural regions, thereby making them more conscious of the development and well-being of the nation. Rural development has attained a dynamic character that is sweeping the whole country side, awakening the people from their long lethargy to the opportunities of advancement in the form of higher income, better education, and an improved standard of living. It is the expectation of the Administration, that these areas, through the energizing effect of the rural banks, will soon be progressive and self-sustaining communities with people who are happy, contented, and imbued with greater civic consciousness. There will be no let-up in the government's effort to push through this program which has been successfully started by the late President Magsaysay and which has gained the acceptance of all the people of the country.

The spirit of self-help has taken root among the barrio people. Local management of the rural banks has aroused the pride and awareness of the community in these banks. The rural bank in many communities today has become the symbol of their combined effort—pooled savings and untiring devotion to improve the community. The government in partnership with private enterprise can only do so much for the barrio people. By necessity, they must also help themselves. The rural banks must never feel that they are self-sufficient unto themselves. On the contrary, the rural banking business is only a piece of the overall program, a part of the general economic development of the nation. It is compelling that for the rural banking business to succeed, some close working relationship between the managers of the bank representing the private enterprise and the government must exist at all times. It is incumbent, therefore, upon the former group to support and follow the government policies, especially those dealing primarily with credit and monetary stability so that we may spread the maximum good to the greatest number of beneficiaries. The government, therefore, would expect the rural banks to forge ahead with greater vision, zeal, and interest and in closer cooperation with government policies.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Speech of President Garcia before the 50th Annual Convention of the Philippine Medical Association at San Luis Gymnasium, Baguio City, Thursday, May 26 1957**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH BEFORE THE 50TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AT SAN LUIS GYMNASIUM, BAGUIO CITY, THURSDAY, MAY 26 1957**

MY FRIENDS:

DURING the last decade, developments in medicine have brought about revolutionary changes. They have affected the lives of individuals beneficently and have enhanced the progress and security of nations. Today, peoples all over the world feel safer and more secure from the ravages of disease; they have more confidence and hope of becoming well if attacked.

Cholera, smallpox, and the plague, which were traditional killers, are no longer the enemies of man—at least not in our country. Other mass diseases which used to exact heavy tolls in human lives are being satisfactorily controlled. We can now prevent or minimize the debilitating or deforming complications or after-effects of many diseases. We have the new drugs, properly called “wonder” drugs, and the skilled techniques that can bring relief or recovery from some diseases hitherto regarded incurable. A newborn baby has much greater chances to live through adult or old age. Life expectancy today is up to 70 years in some of the more advanced countries.

These developments are encouraging and heartening, assuring us that we are steadily winning the struggle for longer and happier lives for all mankind. But satisfaction with what has been achieved should not obscure what remains to be done. We have to keep our gains; this is imperative. But we have to continue building our defenses against the ever-present threat of disease and disability, not only to safeguard ourselves as individuals but also to promote the progress and prosperity of our country.

Immediately after liberation, when the late President Manuel A. Roxas assumed the presidency, he stated that public health in the Philippines had been set back twenty years. Today, thirteen years after that statement, we have fully recovered what we had lost and are now abreast with the latest developments and trends. However, in making a realistic assessment for the purpose of solidifying our defenses in health, it will do us well to find out where our strength lies and where we are still weak.

Do we have enough physicians to serve the medical and health needs of our people? Are they adequately prepared and trained for the exacting demands of the profession? Relating the medical and health problems that we face to our economic resources, what attitude should we take towards the number and quality of the doctors that we turn out from our medical schools?

I feel we should rapidly take measures to produce doctors in the needed number and of the highest quality. Both from the short and the long term goal, quality should not be sacrificed for quantity. While numbers are needed, it is of the utmost importance to improve quality and to adapt professional training to the new responsibilities which physicians have to shoulder in the modern world. It would interest you to know that the Administration has proved its concern to strengthen the teaching of the basic medical sciences in the private medical schools by providing fellowships abroad to their faculties under NEC/ICA training grants. Under this grant, the deans of our medical schools were sent to observe conditions in medical schools and trends in medical education in the United States, and to confer with medical faculties abroad to enable them to acquire broader perspectives that would lead to the raising of standards in our own medical education. Fellowships have also been made available for studies in the medical and other peaceful uses of atomic energy.

Again let us ask—do we have a broad base to support the national health structure? Are the parts that make the base cohesive?

The principal elements that make up the national health are the public health services, the private medical practitioners, and the citizens in the community. Forming a tripod, they hold up the health of the nation. Any

weakness in one leg will tilt the nation's health. There should at all times be harmonious and cooperative working relations among these elements.

You are aware that we have been expanding public health services to meet pressing needs. This is a responsibility of Government. This responsibility it discharges by providing adequate health measures and services.

You all know that since the administration of President Magsaysay took over, the appropriations awarded yearly for our health services have been growing bigger and bigger. This has been inspired by a conscious policy to provide the means for the continuous improvement of the health and physical well-being of our citizenry. Our greatest wealth is, after all, our people, and we must therefore guard their well-being with all the means at our command. I pledge to you that as long as I am President there will be no diminution in the appropriations earmarked for the health of our people, and that on the contrary we shall keep increasing those appropriations at every opportunity consistent with our resources.

Of course, in an environment that recognizes and encourages private enterprise, we uphold the inherent right of every individual to have the physician of his own choice, and hold inviolate the trust and confidence of a patient in his own doctor. Because of the high regard which we give to this relationship, we are naturally averse to regimented, state-controlled, or socialized medicine. In this kind of atmosphere, private medical practice should flourish. We shall continue to respect this concept, but without at any time sacrificing or jeopardizing the citizen's right to be provided with the basic health necessities by his government.

It is extremely important for private medical practitioners to maintain their position with guarded care. Ill-health, sickness, and injury cannot be regarded as commodities that can be placed on an auction block, irrespective of the patient's ability to pay, it is incumbent upon the private medical practitioners to give the best and fullest medical attention and care in every single case.

I am happy to know that the medical association has undertaken a medical indigency project with the view to extending medical care, including the distribution of free medicines, to the truly indigent. This project speaks highly of the sense of responsibility and lofty motives of the members of the association.

This brings me to a consideration of the third leg that holds up and supports national health—the citizens in the community. The increasing awareness and interest of the people in their own individual health and the health of their communities stem from the realization that not only their lives, but the happiness and enjoyment of their freedoms, can depend on their remaining in a state of good health. The boons which medical science have given to them are too precious to be lost through indifference or neglect. Thus they are now ready and willing to assume the responsibilities and the obligations which the situation imposes upon them. More and more they are accepting that health matters not only are “of” and “for” them, but “by” them as well.

If our health defense is to remain strong, it should rest securely on the cohesiveness of these three complementary factors. It is imperative that the cohesion is maintained at all times, and that any difference of conflict should be resolved quickly and satisfactorily,

The extent to which medical science can advance appears to have no limit. The frontiers of knowledge have extended considerably since Galen founded your science and art. These frontiers have pushed to the discovery of wonder drugs and the development of highly skilled medical techniques, up to the splitting of the atom. We are now on the threshold of a millennium that offers two—just two inexorable alternatives to mankind: life and happiness on the one hand; destructive and death on the other. The potentialities for the peaceful uses or annihilative action of the atom are becoming very clearly known. Man has it in his hands to choose one course or the other. We ask ourselves: which way?

Historian Arnold Toynbee has written: “The twentieth century will probably be remembered not as the one in which we had two world wars, or even as the one in which the hydrogen bomb was invented, but the one in which the idea that it was common sense for the nations of the world to use the new inventions to help raise the standard of health and living throughout the world was first accepted as a matter of course”. It is our fervent hope this acceptance will

continue to pervade the future, and that we shall take the high road to unbelievable progress and well-being made accessible to all mankind by man's resourcefulness and genius.

In closing, I should like to extend my thanks for the understanding, cooperation, and support of the medical societies and individual practitioners relative to the Administration's program in public health. I should like to take this occasion also to extend the equal appreciation and thanks of the Administration and mine personally for the international assistance which we have received in the medical and public health fields both from government and private sources.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines College of Law Library**



**Speech of President Garcia on the First Regional Conference on public administration at the Hall of Flags,  
Department of Foreign Affairs, June 7, 1957**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH AT OPENING CEREMONIES OF THE FIRST REGIONAL  
CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AT THE HALL OF FLAGS, DEPARTMENT OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, JUNE 7, 1957**

OUR generation has seen a great and historic movement in many of the nations of Asia and the Far East.

In this part of the world, at least 11 new states have emerged since the end of the war: Korea was the first in 1945; followed by the Philippines in 1946; Pakistan and Ceylon in 1947; Burma, Vietnam, and Cambodia in 1948; India, Laos, and Indonesia in 1949, and Malaya in 1957.

As newly sovereign nations, we acquired for ourselves the governmental authority which we considered to be a primary and cardinal requirement for the fulfillment of the economic and social aspirations of our people.

I should also remark upon an equally dramatic political development in our midst. I refer to the serious efforts of productive enterprises through research activities, training and demonstration services, and the adoption of economic policies designed to encourage private planning for and investment in productive enterprises.

The goals are clear and the programs, though complex, can be planned and promulgated with relative ease. The real difficulties arise in implementation of these programs. It is in the performance of the detailed services despite limited financial resources that our developing governments encounter their greatest difficulties. Modern governmental operations, like large scale business and industrial enterprises, require systematic planning, well coordinated organization, and efficient and effective performance of individual tasks in order to accomplish the objectives essential to balanced and progressive economic development. Above all the governments of developing nations need effective leadership at the operating levels—agency administrators and supervisors who know how to get work done by instilling in others the collective will and capacity to do it.

This is the function of public administration: to plan the detailed programs and activities necessary to carry out major government policies; to organize the personnel of government into effective operating units; to stimulate and facilitate the performance of individual and group tasks; to appraise and evaluate the efficiency of operations; and to take such remedial action, or recommend such changes from time to time, as may be deemed necessary to improve the performance of governmental services.

If we agree with men like our national heroes Rizal and Jacinto, and with other far sighted patriots of your country and mine, that the function of government is to promote the welfare of the people, we must also agree that the success of a government in fulfilling its mission depends upon the quality of its public administration. An efficient administration system, guided by sound policies, will hasten the industrial and agricultural advancement of an entire nation; an inept and inefficient administration will be a drain on the nation's financial resources and will obstruct rather than facilitate economic productivity.

It is incumbent upon every nation, therefore, and especially upon the governments of developing nations that seeks in a few years to raise the living standards of their people several fold, that the system of public administration be studied critically, and that every effort be exerted to increase the performance output of government workers, to insure the positive contribution of each individual and group task to the achievement of major objectives, and to install in every employee and official the professional spirit of service to the public.

Within the next two weeks you will focus your attention upon many vexing administrative problems that obstruct the economic development of our respective countries. Likewise you will exchange ideas and experience on the encouraging results of administrative programs and reforms that you have carried out for the economic and social uplift of our peoples.

Because of these reasons—the importance and value of the work that you and those you represent typify—and also because of the community of interests of our respective countries in the solution of the grave social and economic problems confronting us, I cordially welcome you to the Philippines. This welcome is accompanied by the fervent wish that out of your deliberations will come constructive suggestions that will assist our newly developing nations to advance more rapidly towards our mutual objective of achieving an improved and more balanced social and economic condition for our people.

I wish to repeat what I have said in my signed message to you on this significant occasion. It is my fervent hope that your deliberations will lead to the formulation of programs of foreseeable benefit to the nations that you represent. I also wish that this conference will provide the groundwork, as contemplated in your agenda, for the organization of a regional body of public administrations whose leadership may well secure for the peoples of our region the most efficient and competent public administration.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia at opening ceremonies of the First Regional Conference on public administration at the Hall of Flags, Department of Foreign Affairs, June 7, 1957**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH AT OPENING CEREMONIES OF THE FIRST REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AT THE HALL OF FLAGS, DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, JUNE 7, 1957**

OUR generation has seen a great and historic movement in many of the nations of Asia and the Far East. In this part of the world, at least 11 new states have emerged since the end of the war: Korea was the first in 1945; followed by the Philippines in 1946; Pakistan and Ceylon in 1947; Burma, Vietnam, and Cambodia in 1948; India, Laos, and Indonesia in 1949, and Malaya in 1957.

As newly sovereign nations, we acquired for ourselves the governmental authority which we considered to be a primary and cardinal requirement for the fulfillment of the economic and social aspirations of our people.

I should also remark upon an equally dramatic political development in our midst. I refer to the serious efforts of Asians to reorient the goals and methods of their government so as to make it truly an instrument for promoting the general welfare.

In the words of an early Filipino patriot, Emilio Jacinto, "the welfare of the people is the sole purpose of all governments on earth." We now have the independence essential to the realization of this exalted objective.

After giving due and full credit to those directly responsible for the betterment of our school system, public health service, industrial activities, agricultural production, commodity credit and distribution system, labor relations, road-building program, pier construction, police, protection, and many other substantive fields of productive endeavor, we must ask ourselves: how well has this effort been planned and organized? How well staffed and trained are the personnel of these agencies? How effective are their operation? How well are these functions been coordinated? And, lastly, do we have the machinery to constantly appraise and evaluate the result of these efforts? Have we provided adequate checks and balances? Have we preserved sufficient flexibility to adopt and revise our methods to constantly changing conditions?

The answers to these questions are the continuing responsibility of management—and management in government is known as public administration.

That the welfare of the people is the purpose of government is fully recognized by the government represented here, I am sure. Today, we are concerned, especially with the social and economic welfare of our people. We want to raise their living standards, to provide employment opportunities, and otherwise to help them provide the necessities of an improved livelihood. But to do so we must increase our productive capacity. We must increase our agricultural and industrial production to provide food and clothing for all. We must develop industries essential to a balanced economy; and we must develop exportable products to maintain a balance of trade with other peoples of the world.

Government may or may not be directly involved in the production, transportation, and distribution of economic goods. But it is necessarily engaged in providing services and facilities that will make increased production and effective distribution possible. There must be roads for transportation; there must be schools to prepare our citizens for better living; there must be health services to guard against the debilitating effects of disease; and above all, there must be protection of life and property against violence and other criminal activities which tend to destroy both the incentive and the capacity to engage in long range planning for economic and social gain. In addition, modern government is called upon to assist in the promotion of productive enterprises through research activities, training and demonstration services, and the adoption of economic policies designed to encourage private planning for and investment in productive enterprises.

The goals are clear and the programs, though complex, can be planned and promulgated with relative ease. The real difficulties arise in implementation of these programs. It is in the performance of the detailed services despite limited financial resources that our developing governments encounter their greatest difficulties. Modern governmental operations, like large scale business and industrial enterprises, require systematic planning, well coordinated organization, and efficient and effective performance of individual tasks in order to accomplish the objectives essential to balanced and progressive economic development. Above all the governments of developing nations need effective leadership at the operating levels—agency administrators and supervisors who know how to get work done by instilling in others the collective will and capacity to do it.

This is the function of public administration: to plan the detailed programs and activities necessary to carry out major government policies; to organize the personnel of government into effective operating units; to stimulate and facilitate the performance of individual and group tasks; to appraise and evaluate the efficiency of operations; and to take such remedial action, or recommend such changes from time to time, as may be deemed necessary to improve the performance of governmental services.

If we agree with men like our national heroes Rizal and Jacinto, and with other far sighted patriots of your country and mine, that the function of government is to promote the welfare of the people, we must also agree that the success of a government in fulfilling its mission depends upon the quality of its public administration. An efficient administration system, guided by sound policies, will hasten the industrial and agricultural advancement of an entire nation; an inept and inefficient administration will be a drain on the nation's financial resources and will obstruct rather than facilitate economic productivity.

It is incumbent upon every nation, therefore, and especially upon the governments of developing nations that seek in a few years to raise the living standards of their people several fold, that the system of public administration be studied critically, and that every effort be exerted to increase the performance output of government workers, to insure the positive contribution of each individual and group task to the achievement of major objectives, and to install in every employee and official the professional spirit of service to the public.

Within the next two weeks you will focus your attention upon many vexing administrative problems that obstruct the economic development of our respective countries. Likewise you will exchange ideas and experience on the encouraging results of administrative programs and reforms that you have carried out for the economic and social uplift of our peoples.

Because of these reasons—the importance and value of the work that you and those you represent typify—and also because of the community of interests of our respective countries in the solution of the grave social and economic problems confronting us, I cordially welcome you to the Philippines. This welcome is accompanied by the fervent wish that out of your deliberations will come some constructive suggestions that will assist our newly developing nations to advance more rapidly towards our mutual objective of achieving an improved and more balanced social and economic condition for our people.

I wish to repeat what I have said in my signed message to you on this significant occasion: It is my fervent hope that your deliberations will lead to the formulation of programs of foreseeable benefit to the nations that you represent. I also wish that this conference will provide the groundwork, as contemplated in your agenda, for the organization of a regional body of public administrations whose leadership may well secure for the peoples of our region the most efficient and competent public administration.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Speech of President Garcia at turn over rites of Simon de Anda monument at the Port Area, Sunday Morning, June 8, under auspices of the Manila Lions. PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH AT TURN OVER RITES OF SIMON DE ANDA MONUMENT AT THE PORT AREA, SUNDAY MORNING, JUNE 8, UNDER AUSPICES OF THE MANILA LIONS.**

WHY must the memory of Simon de Anda y Salazar, a Spanish governor-general, be immortalized in Philippine history? Why should a monument be erected to perpetuate his name? These are questions that must be answered on this memorable occasion that we set aside to rededicate the monument in his honor. I will start by saying that Simon de Anda transcended his time. Sent by Spain as a colonial governor over the Filipinos in 1770 at a time when colonialism was generally identified with abuses, oppression, and exploitation of the colonized masses, Simon de Anda on the contrary defended the Filipinos from such injustices and despotism.

Simon de Anda was a hero in three important episodes of Philippine history.

First, when the City of Manila capitulated to the British invaders in 1762, Simon de Anda, then a simple member of the Audiencia of Manila, rebelled against that decision of the government of Spain in the Philippines. He fled to Bulacan and Pampanga and organized the resistance movement against the British occupation. He headed a strong organization of guerrillas composed mainly of Tagalogs and Pampangos to engage the British in a war of attrition until the latter took to their war vessels to return to India in June, 1764. It was therefore Simon de Anda with his guerrilla forces that forced out the British from the Philippines and it was to him that the proud British bowed. Failing in their conquest, they returned the City of Manila to the Spanish rule one year and eight months after they had entered it in triumph. Anda was the towering-hero of the whole episode.

Second, after this significant victory, Simon de Anda returned to Spain where he was received by his king and his people with the honors and glories of a returning victor. He could have concluded his career in the midst of the hosannas and laurels showered upon him by a grateful King and a grateful and idolizing people, but his great soul prodded him to go back to the Philippines, the place of his glorious exploits to undertake a messianic task. This mission was to redeem the Filipinos from the abyss of oppression and tyranny by friars. At that time this undertaking was definitely quixotic, but men like Anda anointed by Destiny of greatness did not falter or waver. He accepted the offer of his King to be the governor-general of the Philippines only after he presented a memorial dated April 12, 1768, in which he depicted to the King of Spain the deplorable conditions in the Philippines, and frankly expressed his desire to put an end to it. It was a memorial in which he fearlessly denounced the oppressions and abuses committed against the Filipinos in the name of the Spanish sovereign and he accepted the governor-generalship only upon assurances that in that capacity he could redress the grievances of the Filipinos.

When he returned to the Philippines as governor-general in 1770, he discharged that high office with the greatest courage and high determination to govern the Filipinos with justice and to grant them the enjoyment of the inalienable rights of man. He did his best and his utmost to restore the good name and prestige of the Spanish sovereign to the love of the people of the Philippines who learned to hate Spain and its King because of the transgressions of the rulers sent here. Unfortunately, however, Anda came too early for his time. He was misunderstood, maligned, and mistrusted by his fellow countrymen in the Philippines until death ended his incumbency in 1776. At his tragic end only his Filipino friends whose affection and love and devotion he won, were at his bedside. When the end came the reactionary forces and the forces of obscurantism rejoiced. He died without achieving much of the noble program that prompted him to come back.

But his sacrifices were not in vain. His ideals of justice and equality germinated in the heart of succeeding generations of Filipinos. Many more heroes and martyrs followed his footsteps in the fight for the redemption of the Filipinos. After him came Rizal who denounced in burning language the same abuses, the same oppressions, that Simon de Anda tried to fight in his time. After him came Bonifacio with the galaxy of Filipino heroes and revolutionaries to keep aflame the fight for justice and the fight for the human rights of the Filipinos.

The third great historic crusade of Simon de Anda, celebrated in Philippine history, is his gallant fight for the rights of Filipino priesthood. When Simon de Anda was yet a member of the Audiencia, the fight for the secularization of

the parishes in the Philippines came to a head. So when he came back as governor-general, he advanced the secularization movement by ordering that the parishes be vacated by regular religious orders and turned over to the Filipino priests who had long been held down because of race and color prejudice. This order hit a hornet's nest and the friars flung the gauntlet and fought back. They disobeyed the orders of periodic visitations of the parishes, denied the Archbishop of Manila of the power of visitation under Anda's order, and there started a turbulent fight between the Governor-General and the friars which ended by a final Royal Decree whereby the secular parishes were forcibly taken from the hands of the Filipino priests and returned to the friars as their private preserve. Anda failed to retain the continued support of his King.

Again, the fight of Simon de Anda for justice to the Filipino priests ended in a failure at that time. Anda came too soon for his time. But after his defeat, however, other brave souls picked up his fights and continued until justice was achieved. So many martyrs like Burgos, Gomez, and Zamora had to give up their lives for the rights of the Filipino priesthood for which Simon de Anda, Spanish governor-general, fought so nobly and so heroically. This was one of the greatest issues involved in the Philippine Revolution of 1896, and this was one of the issues that inspired the pen of Rizal and Plaridel and glorified the sword of many other illustrious heroes of our country. Simon de Anda, a Spaniard, led the fight that ultimately made it possible for Archbishop Santos, Rosales, and many other church dignitaries to occupy the exalted position in the church they now hold. To Simon de Anda they owe eternal gratitude.

Thus, Simon de Anda deserves the undying gratitude of our country. Spaniard as he was, yet he fought for justice to Filipinos and for doing so he paid a high price which only great souls are willing to do. He fought against abuses, oppression, and corruption, whether perpetrated by a white, brown, or black man. He lost the love of his own fellow countrymen because he did not want to lose the love of his God, who is the source of eternal justice, of truth, and of the right. But let Simon de Anda know that if he had lost the love of his own countrymen, the Filipino people for whom he fought and died, will forever treasure his name as one of the greatest benefactors of their country. Simon de Anda! Rest in peace and rest with the assurance that the Filipinos who loved you in 1776 still love you now and forever!

*Source:* **University of the Philippines College of Law Library**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH BEFORE THE GEORGETOWN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION,  
THURSDAY EVENING, JUNE 13, 1957, AT THE PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN CLUBHOUSE**

I am very happy to join the host of friends and well-wishers of Archbishop Jose Maria Cuenco and Justice Delfin Jaranilla on the occasion of the Golden Anniversary of their graduation from Georgetown University. Both of these countrymen of ours have been rendering and are rendering distinguished service to the country, each in his respective line, and it is to the credit of their Alma Mater that both are serving as excellent exponents of the training, background, and ideals of Georgetown as well as inspiring example to our youth.

Different eras and epochs in world history have been marked by different challenges. Military power was once the decisive factor and the right of conquest was then the overriding rule among nations. Then came the era of the struggle for civic freedom and political democracy, ushered in by the American and the French revolutions. This era, we hope, was completed by the last two world wars and the liberation of most colonial peoples after the termination of the last war. Right now, as we examine the problems which vex the statesmen of the mid-twentieth century, the challenge seems to be the attainment of full economic progress. Never before has so much attention been given to the problems of economic development. Even the triumph or defeat of the contending ideologies seems to rest on the outcome on the economic battlefield.

The term “standard of living” is very often used, and yet one wonders whether it is often fully understood. In the first place, it is not something that can be decreed by edict or by legislative enactment. Neither is it to be confused with monetary wages; if it were to be merely reckoned in monetary terms, it is easy enough to raise the supply of money without improving the real standard of living.

When the distribution of the national income is unreasonably uneven, a higher standard of living might be attained by measures designed to obtain a more even distribution. But often, no amount of redistribution can improve the per capital dividend when the sum total of the national income is in itself inadequate. In the Philippines, with our rapidly growing population, a redistributory policy will not be enough without an increase in the aggregate national income.

Undoubtedly, aside from windfalls in the form of foreign aid, benevolent gifts and the like, and the consumption of durable consumption goods, national income is the counterpart of, or the reward for, current production. Here the term "production" should not be viewed solely in the tangible form; such as, so many tons of copra, so many cavanese of rice, or so many board feet of lumber. Rather we should consider production under the more comprehensive term of the creation of utilities. This is a subtle term but a most interesting one. When iron ore is extracted from an iron mine, a certain utility has been created; namely, the raw iron ore. If the ore were to be processed into pig iron, we shall have added an additional utility. If the steel were to be processed into some form of

semi-finished article, the weight of the material may not have increased, and yet more utility will have been added. If the steel is further processed and converted into a machine, physically the weight might still be the same and yet the utility created will have been much greater. Productive power, or productivity, is therefore the capacity to create utilities or the ability to satisfy human wants.

It is realized that there are determinant factors that control a nation's productive power. Aside from the God-given natural resources, a nation's productive power is mainly conditioned by its stock of capital and the temperament and character of its people.

Modern production is highly technological; the use of an increasing proportion of capital goods is of its essence. Savings to permit capital creation is indispensable if we are to increase our country's productive power.

But ultimately, the productive power of the country is determined by the temperament and character of its people. There should be a reorientation to stimulate a higher degree of creativity among the population. National talents should be directed solely into the enjoyment of living. The change should be towards the development of a national passion to do things rather than to merely enjoy them. There should be developed a higher national propensity to introduce innovations in productive processes, continually improving their efficiency by applying newly discovered scientific truths, and in the long run aim at a national propensity to develop fundamental science by more scientific research institutions.

The choice must be made. Either a nation must follow an indulgent, complacent national pattern—this will be pleasant and carefree but inevitably will lead to stagnation and economic backwardness. Or it must choose to follow the path for an aggressively creative attitude—this would mean an effortful, perhaps a hard way of life, but rich and most rewarding.

I bring these thoughts to you in the hope of interesting you as leaders of the community and as illustrious sons of that great institution—Georgetown University of Washington, D. C.—to follow closely the issues and problems of our country and to contribute your share towards their solution. Our country is embarked upon a program of development aimed to raise the living standards of the greatest number of our population, particularly in the rural sector. We see in this development the basis for a stable democracy nourished in freedom and in respect for the human personality. It will be bigger as we participate freely and generously in understanding its problems and opportunities, and as we do our share of productive effort.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library



**Speech of President Garcia before the Joint Session of United States Congress in Washington, D.C., at 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 18 (12:30 a.m., Thursday, Manila Time)**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH BEFORE THE JOINT SESSION OF UNITED STATES CONGRESS IN WASHINGTON, D.C., AT 12:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18 (12:30 A.M., THURSDAY, MANILA TIME)**

MR.

VICE-PRESIDENT,

MR.

SPEAKER,

AND

HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS:

FROM THE BOTTOM of my heart I thank you for this high honor you have accorded me by inviting me to speak to the great American nation through its Congress.

I come here on behalf of the Filipino people, your best friends in Asia who live in the faith that the heart of this great American nation has for them a soft spot. I speak for 23 million Filipinos who renew the vow that we stand by this great nation, the United States of America, as long as her leadership of the Free World continues to be nobly dedicated to the supreme cause of world freedom and peace.

In pledging help to the friends of freedom everywhere to achieve their own security and well-being, the United States, through President Eisenhower, said: "Recognizing economic health as an indispensable basis of military strength and the Free World's peace, you shall strive to foster everywhere and to practice yourselves policies that encourage productivity and profitable trade."

On this state visit of mine to your grand country—thanks to the hospitality of your great President and people—I hope to avail myself of the opportunity to exchange with you renewed pledges of Philippine—American solidarity on the basis of equality, mutuality of interest, and identity of ideals. This is also an opportunity to reiterate the resolve that we the Filipino people, within the limits of our capabilities, will assume our just, burden in the common defense of freedom and in the common pursuit of peace.

Twelve years ago, on July 4, 1946, you granted us the precious boon for which we had longed and fought through almost four centuries: our independence. You gave it not by compulsion but by a voluntary sovereign act. You gave it as free men and as champions of freedom and in, just recognition of the fact that we deserved it, and were willing to assume its tremendous responsibilities. With our cities and provinces buried at the time under the ruin and rubble of the world's most devastating war, with the national economic structure wrecked by four years of ruthless enemy occupation, with our industries despoiled and destroyed, and our agriculture neglected, we nevertheless gladly accepted the responsibilities of independent nationhood.

We then believed, as we still do, that with freedom and independence as our instrumentality and with the courage and determination of our people as our inspiration, we could build again what had been destroyed, we could restore what had been lost, and could establish a regime of justice, liberty, and democracy.

We in the Philippines like to believe that in our 12 years of independent national existence, we have proved to the world that we have not betrayed America's trust and confidence. We like to believe that we have shown that your 50 years of arduous and altruistic effort to help us prepare for our independence were neither fruitless nor wasted. We like to believe that the thousands of American soldiers who fought with us in Bataan, Corrigidor, Leyte, and other hallowed places, did not fight or die in vain. We like to believe that the financial assistance you have given for our country's reconstruction and rehabilitation after the war bespoke the gratitude of the American nation to the Filipinos who were confronted with the double task of building the foundations of the Philippine Republic and at the same time rebuilding what had been destroyed during a war fought for a common cause. We think that in 12 years we have, with your assistance and inspiration, successfully completed the task of reconstruction and restoration.

Now, as we start a new chapter in the unending work of nation-building, we face another great challenge; namely the building of a national economy capable of affording to the humblest citizen of a democratic Philippines

economic well-being, social security, and stability. We are determined to succeed in this task. Only then shall we be able to establish the validity of claim in Asia that the product of 50 years of Philippine-American collaboration is a democracy that offers to its people the reality of a free and abundant life. We shall have proved that freedom means the building up of human dignity, that democracy means more productivity on the farm and in the factory and more harmony and contentment in the home; that liberty means the utilization of our national resources and the full employment of our manpower for the enrichment of our lives and the winning of peace and contentment. By our success in this endeavor, we hope to be able to demonstrate to the world that not communism, but democracy, which stimulates productivity of mind, the heart and the hand, is the answer to the needs of the hungry and the prayers of the oppressed in Asia: that democracy which is founded upon the eternal verities is the answer to the spiritual wants of one billion Asians, as it is the answer to the material wants of more than half of mankind.

In this great task we ask for your understanding, your encouragement, and your assistance—not your charity. We need your faith. We seek from you the strength to make our country an effective force for democracy in Asia.

The historic role of the United States in Asia, in my humble view, is far from completed. It is true that by the grant of the Philippine independence you have started a libertarian cycle of far-reaching consequences, resulting in the independence of other Asian countries like India, Burma, Ceylon, Indonesia, and lately, Malaya. And I would add that this cycle which has rolled on irresistibly into Africa, will not be completed until every nation of the world shall have become free and independent.

Nevertheless, may I be permitted to suggest that the logic of events and the dynamics of history will not permit the United States of America, the recognized leader of the Free World, to stop there. She led triumphantly the forces of freedom in two world wars. She gave the best of her gallant youth to redeem the cause of liberty. She has given billions of dollars of her substance to help break down the ramparts of poverty, ignorance, and disease, and to clear the way for a better world. But when these battles have been won, destiny yet calls on America to continue leading the forces of freedom and democracy in the battle for a universal peace founded upon justice, liberty, and economic security. The last war taught us to reject isolationism as a national policy. It compelled us to accept the principle of the fundamental unity of the human race—the brotherhood of man. The peace and freedom of Asia, where one-half of humanity lives, is therefore unavoidably the concern of the free world of which the United States of America is the acknowledged leader. Asia must therefore be won for democracy. She must be won for peace. To the end, Asia should be helped to develop a political, economic, and social climate in which freedom and peace can nourish. Asia, the birthplace of the greatest religions of the earth, must not be allowed by the folly of passive indifference to fall under the control of a godless ideology. Asia, with her thirst for capital and modern technology, must be won to the conviction that democracy can lead her out of the depths of poverty to the heights of fulfillment. She must be convinced that the democratic ideology which contains the eternal truths preached by Christ and other great religious leaders, prophets, and poets is in modern times the ideology that can best satisfy her deep spiritual longings.

In the fields of commerce, industry, agriculture, art, and science, the Asians should be led to the conviction, not by words but by deeds, that human dignity and human freedom are the highest interests of democracy everywhere; that democracy is the sworn foe of oppression, intolerance, social injustice, and economic insecurity everywhere; and that democracy stands squarely on the principle that the state was created for man and not man for the state. These being the very principles upon which American democracy stands, it is difficult to conceive that her leadership coupled with understanding and helpful and imaginative policies, should fail to win the heart of one billion Asians whose deepest longings are freedom from want, freedom from fear, freedom to grow and develop in peace, and freedom to lift themselves up from abasement of the body and the spirit.

The Filipinos happen to have culture that is an amalgam of the best-in the Asian, Latin, and Anglo-American cultures. It is the only country in Southeast Asia where the overwhelming majority of the people profess the Christian faith. By geography and racial affinity we are of the East, and by culture we are of the West. Our jurisprudence is a confluence of Asian, Latin, and Anglo-American jurisprudences. The greatest of our writers wrote in Spanish, Tagalog, and other vernaculars, and the modern ones in English. Thus, the breadth and depth of our culture, its varied and many sided quality, permits us to claim, without being immodest, a fair understanding of both the East and the West and to become a bridge of understanding between the two. This is a role which we would be happy to perform in the higher interest of the Free World and in the service of world peace.

No one, therefore, should underestimate the tremendous impact upon the Asian peoples of the Philippines success in establishing among its people a real, substantial, and effective democracy as envisaged by Jefferson and Lincoln, and by our own Rizal and Mabini. On the other hand, no one should discount the possibility that the failure of democracy in the Philippines might prove to be a fatal setback to the expanding frontiers of Democracy in Asia.

If you will bear with me for a while, may I be allowed to present to you in bold strokes a picture of the political and economic conditions of my country. The twenty-three million Filipinos are closely and affectionately attached to you in warm friendship, for you have lived with us for more than half a century and have left imperishable influences on our history, politics, economics, and culture. We fought side by side with you when the fortunes of war were at the lowest ebb, and ever after. We never wavered in loyalty, not even under the fire and sword of a ruthless enemy. Our veterans who survived after risking their all have unflinching faith that America will always remember their devotion and they are confident that Congress will ever be mindful of their interests. While Bataan and Corrigidor were fought by armies, the Philippine resistance movement was fought by the masses of our people. During our association of nearly half a century, you inspired our people with the immortal principles of your declaration of independence. You gave us both the letter and the spirit of your Constitution. The political thinking and practices of our people bear the deep imprint of American political institutions and usages. Our democratic way of life has been enriched and vitalized by your own. Thus, when under the dynamic leadership of President Magsaysay, we quelled the communist-inspired Huk rebellion and outlawed communism in the Philippines under a law signed by me last year, we acted under the inspiration of our spirit of 1896 not less than under your spirit of 1776.

The English language is the official language of the Philippines and will so remain indefinitely. It is one of the cultural bonds that bind our country to America and to the English-speaking world. American culture has cut a deep swath in our own. Even now, the English-language newspapers in the Philippines continue to be the favorite newspapers of Filipino readers. Side by side with the development of the indigenous culture, we appreciate more and more American art and literature. Your cultural legacy now forms part of the soul of the Philippine nation.

The economic bond between our two countries is equally important. The biggest market for our foreign trade is the United States to which we sell 52 percent of our exports and from which we buy 55 percent of our imports. The Philippines occupies the eleventh rank among the foreign markets for American products. Your total investments in the Philippines amount to \$250 million and is thus the biggest foreign investment in the Philippines. Under the so-called parity amendment to our Constitution, Americans enjoy the same rights as Filipinos to develop the natural resources of the country and to establish public utilities. We have not given this privilege to any other foreigner. No other country in the world has given it to you. For that reason, the biggest power companies and mining companies in the Philippines are American owned. American investors come in slowly, but they keep coming. American capital and Philippine labor have harmonious relations. Both our elite and our labor force come from 21 universities 352 colleges and 31,000 public and private schools in all of which the democratic ideology is accepted and communism rejected by free choice.

So, I venture to submit my considered view that long; after government-to-government treaties are made and unmade, long after agreements are emptied of meaning, long after covenants expire, this people-to-people relation between Filipinos and Americans will endure through the centuries. These, ladies and gentlemen, are some of the priceless, intangible stakes in our wedded national destinies.

I said a while ago that our task of reconstruction and restoration is over. We have accomplished that with generous American aid. But now, we are starting the more difficult task of building a national economy that will afford the humblest citizen of the country a fair share of the comforts and conveniences of modern civilized life, a fair assurance of continuous employment of our manpower, and a fair measure of economic security and stability for all. Our natural resources in land, mines, forests, marine, and hydro-electric power potential are vast and the greatest part of them are yet untapped. Our potential production of rubber, cotton, rice, corn, and other cereals is unlimited. Our actual production of copra, hemp, and sugar is limited only by the demand of the world market. Some of the world's biggest deposits of nickel, iron, copper, and minerals are found in the Philippines. We are hopeful that someday the tremendous efforts of exploration for oil conducted by American companies will yield the expected results. These, in short, are the vast potentialities of my country.

But I must be frank with you and say that our economic situation leaves much to be desired. We are far from our economic goals. To exploit the vast natural resources I have referred to, we lack the capital and in certain cases, the know-how. Our balance of payments in our international trade has been unfavorable in the post-war years. It is true that we have increased our exports from \$263.4 millions in 1947 to \$428.9 millions in 1958. But our imports have increased faster, from \$511.1 millions in 1947 to \$614.6 millions in 1957. It is also true that from 1953 up to the present, pursuant to our industrialization program, we have established with very little foreign borrowing more than eight hundred new industries. But we are encountering difficulties in providing the dollar requirements of these new industries in machinery, spare parts, and raw materials which have to be imported. This has strained our international reserves. We have extensive irrigation projects to bolster our food production. We have also big harbor improvement projects, especially for Manila, to provide adequate port facilities for a growing foreign and domestic trade. We have power development projects to cope with the rapidly expanding industrialization program in Manila area, Visayas, and Mindanao. But principally, we want to realize thereby an ambitious but necessary program of rural electrification by which we hope to stimulate home and cottage industries in the rural areas; bring to the countryside the blessings of newspapers, movies, radio and television, and other modern urban conveniences and facilities; improve the living standards of our rural folks and brighten up their social and economic outlook. But these can no longer be financed with our own resources alone. To finance these development projects, we therefore need foreign capital and credit.

These are some of the urgent and economic problems we have in our country. So much of our working capital has been invested in the building of the projects and industries we have so far undertaken that refinancing has become imperative. We have progressed half-way toward our objective; we cannot turn back. We need strength to take us to the legitimate goal which we believe we can reach with the assistance of our friends.

Lastly, may I express a parting thought as a tribute to this great American nation by borrowing the words of one of its great Presidents, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He said: "The state of this nation is good—the heart of this nation is sound—the spirit of this nation is strong—the faith of this nation is eternal." The Philippines, your loyal friend and ally, appeals to that heart, to that spirit, and to that faith.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines College of Law Library**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia after Signing House Bill No. 6584, June 19, 1957, outlawing the Communist Party of the Philippines and similar organizations**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH AFTER SIGNING HOUSE BILL NO. 6584, JUNE 19, 1957, OUTLAWING THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE PHILIPPINES AND SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS**

I have signed into law the bill outlawing the Communist Party of the Philippines.

With this law, our people have not only officially made the fight against communism a matter of national policy but we have also acquired a potent weapon in the fight against subversion.

Successful as we have been in breaking the backbone of armed communist resistance, we find ourselves seriously handicapped in countering effectively the more insidious activities of communists who have ostensibly forsworn violence and sought expediently the protection of the very laws of the land which they seek to destroy.

Thus, even with our success in the military field the congressional Committee on Anti-Filipino Activities, after conducting the most comprehensive and authoritative study ever made on the problem of communism in our country, concluded that communism remains a real and continuing threat to the national security. It is to the credit of this Committee that the bill outlawing the Communist Party was conceived and recommended. It is, likewise, to the credit of the champions of civil rights in Congress that necessary safeguards were made such that the legitimate exercise by citizens of their rights shall remain inviolate. What the present law punishes is not dissent or heresy but subversion and conspiracy.

Communist sources, as well as the evidence of our own experiences, establish the fact that the objectives of communism are the destruction of our social, political, and economic system, and their replacement by a foreign and godless ideology guided and directed, from abroad. These same sources, as well as our experience, establish the communist means of achieving these objectives as including armed force, sabotage, espionage, and the many sinister forms of subversion. Far from contenting itself with seeking victory, as do other political minorities, by legal democratic process, communist doctrine flatly denies the possibility of legal success and prescribes criminal conspiracy as its orthodox tactic.

Under the circumstances it is clearly the right and the duty of this Government to invoke the police powers of a sovereign state to protect itself and the institutions entrusted to its care from criminal attack.

The passage of this law reaffirms the position which our government has taken, and will take, vis-a-vis communism: a firm, unequivocal, and uncompromising stand against freedom's most odious and implacable foe.

In this vigorous and reasoned counter-offensive to communist aggression, I feel that we are serving the cause of the Free World as well as our own best interests. If our neighbors can derive benefit or guidance from our experiences and approach, we will have made a substantial contribution to the peace and security of this area.

I assure lovers of freedom and democracy's friends everywhere that during my incumbency as president of the Republic of the Philippines I shall not only see to it that the anti-communist program of my illustrious predecessor, Ramon Magsaysay, will remain intact, but I shall also push it through with the same dedication and with unrelenting vigor.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia on Rizal's 96th Birthday anniversary, June 19, 1957**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH ON RIZAL'S 96TH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY DELIVERED AT THE INDEPENDENCE GRANDSTAND, WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 19, 1957**

MY FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

WE are once more gathered on this hallowed ground to commemorate the ninety-sixth birthday anniversary of our national hero and greatest patriot, Dr. Jose Rizal y Mercado. In every public square throughout our Motherland and in the heart of every countryman, this fateful day is marked by renewed pledges of devotion to the ideas and ideals for which he died. Nothing we can say or do today can ever alter Rizal's massive historic stature. Instead, therefore, of indulging in the always prideful task of enumerating his many well-known virtues and varied achievements, I should like to advocate on this, his memorable natal day, the birth of a new and constructive approach to Rizal.

Rizal does not belong only to our race. He belongs to humanity. I am confident that a greater and deeper understanding of his life and work will free him at last from the perennial controversies to which we have unwittingly subjected his memory, and establish him in his final exalted place, not only in our history but also in the history of all mankind.

Without wishing it, I am sure, we have made our national hero a controversial figure. We have done this by raising issues around him which should never have been made issues. Although our Rizal was not of common clay, possessed as he was of indomitable physical and moral courage, may it not be the part of love and reverence on our part to spare his memory as much as possible from the angry storms of factional strife?

I do not for a moment mean by this statement that the scientific research to which historical figures are forever legitimately subjected and the possible differences of findings and conclusions as a consequence should cease in the case of Rizal. By all means, we should continue by arduous study to increase our intimacy with the greatest son of our race. Yet, out of loyalty to our hero, should we not spare him from those controversies that, because of their very nature, can never be conclusive—controversies which, if kept up with factional spirit and bitterness, may eventually do more harm than good to his memory?

I believe that, as a people, we have now reached such a degree of emotional and social maturity that we can lead others to a new understanding of Rizal, an understanding so far and judicious that Spain, all Asia, and perhaps all America will finally accept it. If I may assume that this is possible and advisable—if a better approach, to Rizal than the path we have so far followed exists—then it remains for us to discover what and where that path may be. To find that path we should, I believe, adjust our attitude to Rizal in at least three ways.

One of these Ways is to adopt a more human and rational approach to our hero. To my mind, one of the richest sources of material for controversy about Rizal is the attitude of some of us of literally and fully believing everything that Rizal wrote, including those he put in the mouths of his fictional characters. It is, of course, part of our reverence for Rizal that we should believe in him and in his teachings, taking them as our national gospel. But even Rizal himself, during his lifetime, protested against the tendency, which he observed even then, of regarding as part of his own philosophy and belief, those statements and indictment uttered by the various characters in his novels. If the hero himself did not consider it fair to identify his personal attitude with those of his characters, then we can do no less than be discriminating as he wished.

On the opposite side, there are those who, for one reason or another, disbelieve in what he said or wrote. They would have the hero go back on his own teachings and preachings, especially those that created a profound stirring among our people.

Neither attitude, I believe, is correct. Instead of defying Rizal, let us humanize him. He was indeed made of heroic stuff, yet Rizal was after all, a human being. As a human being, he was possessed of emotions and prejudices—he was fallible. But neither was he a man of shallow and changeable convictions. Possessed of a well nigh universal mind, perhaps the greatest intellect our race has so far produced, Rizal's every belief was part of a thoroughly rationalized system of personal philosophy. If we recognize him in this light, we shall soon crystallize a more tolerant attitude that will eliminate the unnecessary conflicts of opinion and emotion over the thoughts and the deeds of our national hero.

Another part of a new, constructive approach to Rizal is, I believe, the understanding of his thoughts and ideas in their true historical contexts. He lived, worked, and wrote during the last decades of the nineteenth century; he sacrificed his life for his ideas and ideals sixty-one years ago this coming December. Since then, there have been important and even radical changes in our country and in the rest of the world.

The standards of life and morality three score years ago and today are as far apart as the distances between countries before the invention of the airplane. Then, western imperialism was strongly entrenched. Spain, Great Britain, the Netherlands, and France, to mention only the leading colonizers, held in subjection great parts of Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. Indeed, as late as 1898, the United States also suffered from a brief but violent attack of imperialism and wrested the Philippines and other subject countries away from Spain. Among western nations, indeed, the colonization of backward countries was regarded as one of the most enlightened functions of civilization, today imperialism, whether western or communist, is condemned in most of the civilized world.

Up to recent years, colonies could become independent nations only by defeating the mother country in a revolution, as the thirteen American colonies did when they successfully fought a Civil War against Great Britain. In recent years, however, led by America and with the Philippines as the first beneficiary colonizing countries have been gradually liberating their colonies, in many cases assisting them to establish independent governments. Since the nineteenth century, international morality in most parts of the world has certainly changed for the better.

Part of the justification of nineteenth-century imperialism, at least in the minds of the West, was the backwardness, social as well as economic, of the colonies. From the viewpoint of the West, this was also true of the Philippines, and we should be less than candid if we did not admit it as a fact. Even Rizal recognized that, in education, in science, in industry, and in government, the Filipinos had still a long way to travel. The improvement in international relations has of course been made possible by the vast improvements in the domestic affairs of nations, including economic, religious, and political. Higher national morality has led to higher international morality.

Knowledge of the historical contexts is essential in the fair and just appraisal of Rizal's criticisms of the shortcomings of his times. To try to weigh them today in terms of contemporary standards of justice and morality is to be unfair and unjust not only to the targets of the patriot's indignation but also to Rizal himself. It is part of our respect and love of our hero that we should try to learn his feelings and thoughts behind his words and, without being more severe nor more lenient than he meant to be, faithfully adhere to his purposes and intentions. If we bear all this in mind when we try to understand the words and deeds of Rizal, we shall come nearer to his torments, to his dreams, and to his aspirations—we shall truly commune with our hero.

A third component of a new and constructive approach to Rizal is the evaluation of his ideals and deeds in terms of their positive and significant consequences to the history of humanity.

It has become trite to say that Rizal possessed indomitable courage and pure patriotism. He had known from the very start that to undertake the task that he embraced was to take his life in his own hands. It is common knowledge that he could have saved himself had he wished, but to him retreat was unthinkable; he exposed himself willingly and knowingly to arrest and punishment. He regarded his life as little enough price to pay for the recognition of the liberty and dignity of his people and nation.

Perhaps this was because, as a great intellect, Rizal had faith in the supremacy of right and reason. He was evidently confident that since his position was essentially right, justice should and would prevail. His abiding faith in justice and reason was also evident in his opposition to violence and war and his preference for peaceful social and political

reforms. He was not a man of revolution but evolution; he was the scientist and intellectual rather than the warrior and conqueror. His way of thinking presaged such latter-day institutions as the League of Nations and the United Nations.

By his agitation against oppression, Rizal became the initiator of our libertarian movement. His novels and other writings awoke our people to their degradation. Rizal having won the battle for their minds, Bonifacio successfully organized them for direct action under the *Katipunan*. Although, as Rizal had feared, the revolution failed, it started chain reaction that finally led to our liberation and the establishment of our Republic.

Rizal's dominant spirit continued indeed to shape our destiny under the new American dispensation. During the first years of her Philippine trusteeship when America was searching her soul as to what to do with the Philippines, it was Rizal's greatness of soul and loftiness of spirit that guided the U. S. Congress to the adoption of a Philippine policy pointed to the goal of ultimate freedom and independence.

When the U. S. Congress was considering the Philippine Bill of 1902, we in the Philippines were still disorganized as a people. We had just gone through a series of bloody wars, first against the Spaniards and later against the Americans. Although General Aguinaldo had been captured by Colonel Funston and the back of the so-called Insurrection had been broken, there were still bloody sporadic guerrilla actions against Americans in our remoter provinces. True it is that the Federal party was already in existence, but its leaders seemed satisfied merely to cooperate with America. So it is that when the most important legislation known as the Philippine Bill of 1902 was being debated in Washington, not only were we without any representation, as we later had through our Resident Commissioners and our frequent missions to the United States, but our good will in America was at the lowest possible ebb.

During the discussion of the bill, its chief proponent in the House of Representatives, Congressman Henry Allen Cooper of Wisconsin, found himself constrained to lament:

"Every day we hear men declare that the people of the Philippines are 'pirates,' 'barbarians,' 'savages,' 'incapable of true civilization.' This has been said by a very prominent gentleman within the last two days. Newspapers of prominence have repeatedly endorsed this view."

So strong and bitter was the opposition against the bill, an opposition which evidently consisted of giving the Filipinos a bad name and hanging them, that on June 19, 1902, exactly 55 years ago today, Congressman Cooper was forced to use Rizal as his trump card. Thus the spirit of our hero came once more to the rescue of our country and its future.

After briefly narrating the sad but inspiring life of Rizal, Congressman Cooper recited before a hushed House the English translation of *My Last Farewell*. And when the prolonged applause that followed had subsided, the Congressman spoke thus:

"Pirates! Barbarians! Savages! Incapable of civilization! How many of the civilized, Caucasian slanderers of his race could ever be capable of thoughts like these which on that awful night, as he sat amidst silence unbroken save by the rustling of the black plumes of the death angel at his side, poured from the soul of the martyred Filipino? Searching the long and bloody roll of the world's martyred dead, and where—on what soil, under what sky—did Tyranny ever claim a nobler victim?"

"Sir, the future is not without hope for a people which . . . has furnished to the world a character so lofty and so pure as that of Jose Rizal ....

"It has been said that if American institutions had done nothing else than furnish to the world the character of George Washington, 'that alone would entitle them to the respect of mankind.' So, sir, I say to all those who denounce the Filipinos indiscriminately as barbarians and savages, without possibility of a civilized future, that this despised race proved itself entitled to their respect and to the respect of mankind when it furnished to the world the character of Jose Rizal."



It can perhaps be said that the final shape and passage of the important legislation of 1902, which gave the Filipinos their first opportunity to exercise self-government and thus prove their fitness for freedom, were as much due to the Spirit of Rizal as to American statesmanship.

But if Rizal is our national hero and a Philippine-American inspiration, he is also a benefactor of all Asia and perhaps of all mankind. This broader fame can be given due recognition and emphasis if we who are Rizal's own people can be more agreed and unified behind his ideas and ideals.

It is time to establish the fact—and we Filipinos should make the greatest effort to do so—that Rizal is entitled to be recognized by all the world as the father of Asian nationalism. An eminent historian of Yale University, Dr. Ralph A. Turner, has declared that the assertion of Filipino dignity and love of liberty which Rizal courageously voiced in the early 1890's constituted the first cry of nationalism in all Asia. If this is so—and it is patently so—then the freedom that has come to Asia after Rizal, resulting in the emancipation of some half of dozen countries and over half a billion human beings, owes its origin to his labors and death. Rizal labored and died not only for his people but for all Asians!

Thus Rizal was a far greater man and a far greater hero than most of us have so far conceived him. Of all our honored patriots, he loved and served most our Motherland. But in the perspective of universal human welfare, his humanitarian services were infinitely more than merely national. It was, in the truest sense of the word, international. His Spirit helped to guide American policy away from the road of imperialism to that of altruism. And his struggle for human dignity and human emancipation was at once the beginning of the struggle of all Asia, and eventually of all subject races, for human dignity and freedom.

The new constructive approach to Rizal will therefore greatly enhance his immortal memory and improve the friendship and amity that bind us with Asia and the rest of the world. His contributions to human welfare will become more in the definitive and integrated record of mankind. As we take ever greater pride in him and his memory, we shall also earn wider respect for our race among the other races of the world.

By sharing our hero with Asia and perhaps with Spain and America, we shall help to give new massiveness to his enduring fame. If in the process we can discover a basis of revering Rizal which others, including Spain, can accept as historically justifiable and fair, we shall at the same time erase much of the bitterness of our Spanish past, replacing it with a new bridge of kinship and understanding that will link our Republic with Mother Spain. And if our patriot and hero finally wins his rightful place in the history of western colonization and Asian struggle for dignity and freedom, he will also make our own race more worthy of the respect of mankind for having produced, to borrow Congressman Cooper's felicitous phrase, the character of Jose Rizal.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**Speech of President Garcia after signing House Bill No. 6584, June 19, 1957, outlawing the communist party of the Philippines and similar organizations PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH AFTER SIGNING HOUSE BILL NO. 6584, JUNE 19, 1957, OUTLAWING THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE PHILIPPINES AND SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS**

I have signed into law the bill outlawing the Communist Party of the Philippines.

With this law, our people have not only officially made the fight against communism a matter of national policy the anti-communist program of my illustrious predecessor, Ramon Magsaysay, will remain intact, but I shall also push it through with the same dedication and with unrelenting vigor.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

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**Speech of President Garcia on Rizal's 96th Birthday Anniversary delivered at the Independence Grandstand, June 19, 1957**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH ON RIZAL'S 96TH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY DELIVERED AT THE INDEPENDENCE GRANDSTAND, WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 19, 1957**

MY FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

WE are once more gathered on this hallowed ground to commemorate the ninety-sixth birthday anniversary of our national hero and greatest patriot, Dr. Jose Rizal y Mercado. In every public square throughout our Motherland and in the heart of every countryman, this fateful day is marked by renewed pledges of devotion to the ideas and ideals for which he died. Nothing we can say or do today can ever alter Rizal's massive historic stature. Instead, therefore, of indulging in the always prideful task of enumerating his many well-known virtues and varied achievements, I should like to advocate on this, his memorable natal day, the birth of a new and constructive approach to Rizal.

Rizal does not belong only to our race. He belongs to humanity. I am confident that a greater and deeper understanding of his life and work will free him at last from the perennial controversies to which we have unwittingly subjected his memory, and establish him in his final exalted place, not only in our history but also in the history of all mankind.

Without wishing it, I am sure, we have made our national hero a controversial figure. We have done this by raising issues around him which should never have been made issues. Although our Rizal was not of common clay, possessed as he was of indomitable physical and moral courage, may it not be the part of love and reverence on our part to spare his memory as much as possible from the angry storms of factional strife?

I do not for a moment mean by this statement that the scientific research to which historical figures are forever legitimately subjected and the possible differences of findings and conclusions as a consequence should cease in the case of Rizal. By all means, we should continue by arduous study to increase our intimacy with the greatest son of our race. Yet, out of loyalty to our hero, should we not spare him from those controversies that, because of their very nature, can never be conclusive—controversies which, if kept up with factional spirit and bitterness, may eventually do more harm than good to his memory?

I believe that, as a people, we have now reached such a degree of emotional and social maturity that we can lead others to a new understanding of Rizal, an understanding so far and judicious that Spain, all Asia, and perhaps all America will finally accept it. If I may assume that this is possible and advisable—if a better approach to Rizal than the path we have so far followed exists—then it remains for us to discover what and where that path may be. To find that path we should, I believe, adjust our attitude to Rizal in at least three ways.

One of these ways is to adopt a more human and rational approach to our hero. To my mind, one of the richest sources of material for controversy about Rizal is the attitude of some of us of literally and fully believing everything that Rizal wrote, including those he put in the mouths of his fictional characters. It is, of course, part of our reverence for Rizal that we should believe in him and in his teachings, taking them as our national gospel. But even Rizal himself, during his lifetime, protested against the tendency, which he observed even then, of regarding as part of his own philosophy and belief, those statements and indictment uttered by the various characters in his novels. If the hero himself did not consider it fair to identify his personal attitude with those of his characters, then we can do no less than be discriminating as he wished.

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The standards of life and morality three score years ago and today are as far apart as the distances between countries before the invention of the airplane. Then, western imperialism was strongly entrenched. Spain, Great Britain, the Netherlands, and France, to mention only the leading colonizers, held in subjection great parts of Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. Indeed, as late as 1898, the United States also suffered from a brief but violent attack of imperialism and wrested the Philippines and other subject countries away from Spain. Among western nations, indeed, the colonization of backward countries was regarded as one of the most enlightened functions of civilization. Today imperialism, whether western or communist, is condemned in most of the civilized world.

Up to recent years, colonies could become independent nations only by defeating the mother country in a revolution, as the thirteen American colonies did when they successfully fought a Civil War against Great Britain. In recent years, however, led by America and with the Philippines as the first beneficiary colonizing countries have been gradually liberating their colonies, in many cases assisting them to establish independent governments. Since the nineteenth century, international morality in most parts of the world has certainly changed for the better.

Part of the justification of nineteenth-century imperialism, at least in the minds of the West, was the backwardness, social as well as economic, of the colonies. From the viewpoint of the West, this was also true of the Philippines, and we should be less than candid if we did not admit it as a fact. Even Rizal recognized that, in education, in science, in industry, and in government, the Filipinos had still a long way to travel. The improvement in international relations has of course been made possible by the vast improvements in the domestic affairs of nations, including economic, religious, and political. Higher national morality has led to higher international morality.

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"It has been said that if American institutions had done nothing else than furnish to the world the character of George Washington, that alone would entitle them to the respect of mankind. So, sir, I say to all those who denounce the Filipinos indiscriminately as barbarians and savages, without possibility of a civilized future, that this despised race proved itself entitled to their respect and to the respect of mankind when it furnished to the world the character of Jose Rizal."

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The new constructive approach to Rizal will therefore greatly enhance his immortal memory and improve the friendship and amity that bind us with Asia and the rest of the world. His contributions to human welfare will become more in the definitive and integrated record of mankind. As we take ever greater pride in him and his memory, we shall also earn wider respect for our race among the other races of the world.

By sharing our hero with Asia and perhaps with Spain and America, we shall help to give new massiveness to his enduring fame. If in the process we can discover a basis of revering Rizal which others, including Spain, can accept as historically justifiable and fair, we shall at the same time erase much of the bitterness of our Spanish past, replacing it with a new bridge of kinship and understanding that will link our Republic with Mother Spain. And if our patriot and hero finally wins his rightful place in the history of western colonization and Asian struggle for dignity and freedom, he will also make our own race more worthy of the respect of mankind for having produced, to borrow Congressman Cooper's felicitous phrase, the character of Jose Rizal.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

## Message of President Garcia in vetoing S. B. 167, June 22, 1957

### MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT IN VETOING S. B. 167, JUNE 22, 1957

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE:

I am returning herewith Senate Bill No. 187 entitled "AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE PARTIAL DECONTROL OF IMPORTS, TO PROVIDE DESIRABLE INCENTIVES TO EXPORT-INDUSTRIES INCLUDING THE GOLD MINING INDUSTRY, AND TO PROMOTE THE FINDING OF NEW EXPORT MARKETS FOR OUR PRODUCTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," without my signature.

In transmitting the attached bill to the Office of the President, the President of the Senate attached a memorandum thereto explaining the legislative history of the bill.

I am fully sympathetic with the laudable purposes of the bill to provide desirable incentives to export industries and to promote the finding of new export markets for our products. I took note of and weighed all the arguments for and against it as presented in open-forums, in the editorials and columns of the press, in radio broadcasts, and in memoranda addressed to the President. On top of all these, considering its importance and its far-reaching effects on the totality of our economic structure, I have sought the advice of our elder statesmen, many of whom are members of the Council of State, our highest advisory body, members of the Cabinet, and the Inter-departmental Committee. An overwhelming majority of them recommended the veto of this bill.

With all these to help me make one of the most momentous decisions in my life, I came to the conclusion that Senate Bill No. 167 will not lead us to the attainment of its high objectives.

My attention has been called specifically by the Secretary of Finance and the Governor of the Central Bank to the fact that if this bill were approved, approximately \$128 million will be removed from the control and disposition of the Central Bank, more particularly itemized as follows:

Class A:	100% of gold
Class B:	Minor exports and the excess of U.S. quota exports, 80% of \$35.35 million
Class C:	Major exports and U.S. quota exports, 15% of \$418.2
Under Republic Act No. 1410	

On the basis of the total export receipts of \$452 million in 1956, the Central Bank would have at its free disposal only \$324 million (after deducting \$128 million). Total allocation for essential producer and essential consumer goods in 1956 amounted to \$457 million. Assuming that export receipts will remain on the same level, the allocation for capital goods and raw materials will be short of about \$133 million. This will cripple existing industries, and what is worse, will frustrate the five-year fiscal plan (1957-1961) with a five-year foreign exchange budget designed to accelerate the base of our economic development.

I note with satisfaction that in the year 1956 alone, a total of 136 new and necessary industries were established, thus bringing up to a little over 700 the number of such industries during this foreign-exchange control period (1954-1957). This was made possible mainly through a wise management and control of our foreign exchange. During the same year, quotas for non-essential producer goods have dropped from 12.9% in 1954 to 8.3% in 1956, while

essential producer goods quotas have increased during the same period from 47.1% to 64%. This marked increase in essential producers goods has gone into the establishment or the expansion of our industries.

These existing industries and those contemplated in our economic development program must be protected and nourished through a wise management and effective control and distribution of our dollar reserves. And this management, control, and distribution may be possible only by making all receipts from exports accrue to the foreign exchange reserve of the Central Bank, there to be allocated in accordance with well-defined priorities.

With the 700 new and necessary industrial establishments, organized and maintained with the help and support of our foreign exchange reserve, probably facing difficulties, if not collapse, by the sudden decrease of the dollar reserves, we have to consider the dire consequences to our labor and unemployment problem resulting therefrom. The shutdown of some of these industrial firms for lack or deficiency of foreign exchange support means the throwing out of work of thousands of laborers, among whom there are already above a million unemployed.

With the negotiability of import certificates as provided in sections 7 and 9 of the bill, their falling into the hands of blackmarketeers, nationals and aliens, is reasonably foreseeable. This will inevitably result in radical increase in prices of commodities which will hit the wage earners, the fixed-salaried men, and the small farmers—in short, the masses of our people. Moreover, the privilege given to producers under section 8 of the bill of having the option to sell their goods in the currency of the importing country, while such exporters would get dollars from the Central

Bank for the corresponding import certificates will, in all likelihood, place the Central Bank in serious difficulties because many of these currencies are not convertible into dollars and, therefore, virtually useless to us. This will mean serious impairment or virtual devaluation of the peso and, consequently, serious inflation of prices which means sufferings to the masses of our people.

I am therefore convinced that the enactment of this bill into law will adversely affect the livelihood of our workers, daily wage earners, the fixed-salaried class, and the great laboring masses. While I concede that the bill will give incentives to producers and exporters, I cannot, in fairness, allow that sector of the community to prosper at the expense of the less fortunate and greater number of our people.

I feel very strongly that if the earning power of the common masses of our people cannot be substantially increased, I should not allow myself to be an instrument to give them less than what little they actually have, while enriching further those who already are enjoying the good fortunes of life. I cannot affix my signature to a legislative proposition that will make the rich richer and the poor poorer.

I have not lost sight of our international credit standing in the consideration of this bill. Our government is a signatory to the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund, which prohibits multiple currency practices. (Sec. 3, Art. IV, Sec. 3, Art. VII, C. A. No. ). Adoption of this measure will constitute a breach of our international commitment, which we can ill afford. Our international credit will be adversely affected and our borrowing capacity will be greatly impaired if and when this bill is allowed to become a law.

Besides the above considerations on the merits and demerits of the question, there is also some doubts as to the constitutionality of said bill, covering as it does, four subject-matters, not all of which are germane to each other. This constitutes a violation of the constitutional injunction against plurality of subject matter of bills.

Then there are also provisions that make reference to certain laws no longer in force.

It may not be amiss to state, in connection herewith, that according to the history of the bill transmitted to the President by the President of the Senate, there was an understanding to pass the bill, which is now Republic Act No. 1410, popularly known as the No-Dollar Import Law, in lieu of Senate Bill No. 167. Be that as it may, the objective of giving, through legislative enactment, proper incentives to Filipino producers is a laudable idea. As a matter of fact, Congress has already enacted several acts in this direction. To name a few, there is the act subsidizing the farmers by selling to them at half their cost price fertilizers bought by the government. Then there is a law exempting from taxes new and necessary industries and also the extensive financing of producers through the



ACCFA, the RFC, the PNB, and other government financial institutions. There are still a dozen others which need not be mentioned here.

Recognizing the soundness of this policy of providing incentives to producers to increase their productivity, I avail myself of this opportune to promise to the advocates of Senate Bill No. 187 that I will in due time appoint a committee of responsible officials and leaders in businesss, agriculture, and industry to study ways and means of attaining the objectives of the said bill in a manner generally beneficial to our national economy. It is the hope of this Administration that, with the cooperation of all patriotic citizens of this country, a formula can be found to provide positive and practical incentives to producers and manufacturers. We cannot afford to fail; we must not fail in this patriotic undertaking.

For all the foregoing considerations, I am constrained to veto Senate Bill No. 167.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Speech of President Garcia upon receiving the Scroll of Honor and the Gold Medallion of the City of New York, June 23, 1958 PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH UPON RECEIVING THE SCROLL OF HONOR AND THE GOLD MEDALLION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK FROM MAYOR WAGNER AT 12:30 P.M., MONDAY, JUNE 23, NEW YORK TIME (1:30 A.M. TUESDAY, JUNE 24, MANILA TIME)**

MAY I thank you Mr. Mayor and through you the people and government of the City of New York for your hospitality and for the honor which you have bestowed upon me today. In the busy schedule of any official visitor to this country, there is one item to which he looks forward with a feeling of joyous anticipation and special pride—this is the visit to the City of New York without which he would feel that his itinerary in America would not be complete.

The physical magnificence of New York has struck all visitors with an overwhelming sense of wonderment and awe. The streets crowded with traffic, the sidewalks full of people, the shops and factories teeming with activity, and the towering skyscrapers, truly make New York the greatest, busiest, and most restless metropolis in the world.

But New York is not just an outsized city that is larger, richer, and more active than the next one. The real glory of New York is that it is the city of man. Here is a city built upon a scale more godlike than human as if one day man had planted his foot on the solid rock of Manhattan and here decided to build a city more splendid than any ever conjured by the Genie of Aladdin's lamp or by the magic wand of Merlin. The wonder of New York is that for all its awesome grandeur, it was raised and reared stone by stone by the hands, brain, and imagination of man.

But New York is unique. In yet another way, other great cities are usually the epitome of the genius and enterprise of one race. One nation, one people, New York alone stands as a massive and challenging monument to the genius and enterprise of all the peoples of the world who have come here in search of freedom and opportunity in the spirit of the beckoning lamp of the statue of liberty.

The real greatness of New York lies not in its buildings, bridges, and docks of stone and steel but in its people. It is to be found in the daily miracle of 10 million people living and working together under unbelievable pressure of time and space, and yet avoiding each momentary menace of explosion and chaos. This is possible only because New York is aware that it is an amalgam of all the races, nations, and religions of the world and because New York knows also that it has a duty to render unto each the equal dignity and respect to which it is entitled. To you, Mr. Mayor, is due most of the credit for the daily miracle that is New York. I congratulate you most warmly and, through you, the thousands of men and women who help you run the government of the city of New York with marvelous devotion and skill. It used to be said of New York that it is an American city that looks to Europe in the same way that San Francisco looks to Asia and the Far East. But we of Asia do not minimize the importance of San Francisco nor love and admire it the less when we feel we must say of New York that it is the American city that looks to all the world because it partakes of all the world and works for all the world. Truly may it be said that all mankind has a stake in the greatness, present and future, of New York.

In this spirit I accept with deep pleasure and gratitude this scroll of honor and Gold Medallion of the City of New York and will treasure them always as priceless mementoes of my visit here and of your kindness to me.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia at a civic dinner sponsored by the Phoenix Press Club and Executive Club in the Thunderbird Room of the Westward Ho Hotel, at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 25, Phoenix Time (9:30 a.m., Thursday, June 25, Manila Time)**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH AT A CIVIC DINNER SPONSORED BY THE PHOENIX PRESS CLUB AND EXECUTIVE CLUB IN THE THUNDERBIRD ROOM OF THE WESTWARD HO HOTEL, AT 7:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, PHOENIX TIME (9:30 A.M., THURSDAY, JUNE 25, MANILA TIME)**

MY FRIENDS:

PERHAPS it occurs to you to ask why I came to Arizona. Well the answer is that I like to learn a few things from Arizona which I believe will be most useful to me in administering the national affairs of my country.

But that is only one of the many reasons. The altitude and the expanse of your plateaus and the towering mountain ranges and the breath-taking contours of your plains and valleys all seem to conspire as it were in making a visitor to your beautiful state simply enraptured and captivated. And your wonderful climate, with its even temperature, low humidity, and plenty of sunshine, makes this place a bewitching vacation land. The diversity of your topography with the changing pattern of the landscape as you move from one part of the state to the other, together with the deep intervening canyons and gorges, land color, beauty, and grandeur a traveler can never forget.

Nowhere in the world has such a combination of soil, water and power, and man's ingenuity and industry made living richer and fuller as in your state of Arizona. I understand that an older civilization now extinct made use of water by a system of canals on the Salt and Gila Rivers. Your modern state has continued this dependence on the use of water; your modern dams and reservoirs have not only watered your rich plains and valleys but also made some of your deserts bloom. Your Roosevelt and Hoover dams are by-words in irrigation and reclamation all over the world. But not content with these and many more reclamation projects, utilizing irrigation water and electric power from your mighty rivers, you have also tapped your underground water sources and, by pumping, have made water available where you are now cultivating rich farm lands and orchards.

In my brief visit to your state, I have been impressed with the beauty of your nature and sturdiness and resourcefulness of your people. But as I stand before you today, I cannot help but reminisce about the parallel history of your state and my country and the development of self-government and statehood and the problems of agriculture and industry with which your people were faced and which my people are now facing.

These parallel strands of historical, political, and economic development become more vivid as I try to understand the remarkable combination of soil, water, and power which your people have so impressively brought about and the political and economic organizations which the founders of your state have demonstrated and your leaders now continue to administer with such efficiency and practical results. The rare combination of agricultural and mineral resources with water and power, under capable economic and political leadership, have made your state what it is today. We of the under-developed countries have here an example to look up to of what could be done with the natural resources of a region using man's ingenuity, industry, and vision.

The parallel strands of historical development which bring my country close to your state are rather fragile and tenuous. But these tiny strands of memories are there nevertheless, making me feel at home with a familiar culture but under different surroundings.

Between 1526 and 1540, when the Spanish intrepid explorers, Jose de Basconales, Cabeza de Vaca, Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, and Hernando de Alarcon, were trying to reach the Arizona plateau from Mexico and exploring the upper reaches of the Colorado River, other dauntless Spaniards on their sturdy galleons sailed to the

Philippines to explore and conquer. Following the footsteps of Magellan who reached the Philippines in 1521, only to die in the hands of resisting natives in the Island of Mactan, the intrepid navigators, Loiasa, Saavedra, and Villalobos, reached our southern island, of Mindanao in the years between 1526 and 1543. In the next two decades, while the Spaniards were strengthening their foothold in New Mexico and what is now part of southern Arizona, the Spanish explorers, Legaspi and Urdaneta, reached Manila and consolidated the hold of Spain in the Islands of Luzon and Visayas.

In recent modern history, I noted with satisfaction a memorable date in your history, February 14, 1912, when President Taft signed the proclamation that made Arizona the 48th and last state, to be admitted into the Union. President Taft, as you may remember, was beloved to Filipinos, for he served as the first civil governor of the Philippines under the American administration, between 1901 and 1903, and was the forerunner of self-government in the Philippines. It was under Governor Taft's administration that the Filipinos had their first training in self-government and also their first introduction to educational and land reforms which opened for all Filipinos the opportunities of public education and of earning a living on equal terms in all the trades and professions.

The year following the admission of this state to the union saw the passage of the Underwood Tariff Act (1913), superseding the Payne-Aldrich Tariff Act of the United States, which granted unlimited free trade between the Philippines and the United States. This Act ushered in a new era in Philippine trade and economic development, for since then our export industries developed by leaps and bounds under the stimulus of a free United States market. With this trade development came the rapid growth of free and democratic institutions in the Philippines.

It appears to me, therefore, that while your state grew under the wise guidance and efforts of your leaders and citizens and your democratic institutions developed in the midst of your own peculiar conditions of climate and society; our developed under the benevolent and altruistic tutelage of the United States. Our culture and civilization continued to grow under more than 300 years of Spanish colonial rule, and for the last 50 years, under American administration. The former left us a heritage of the Christian faith and western culture super-imposed on our Malayan backgrounds. Fifty years of benevolent American rule gave us popular education, popular government, and modern technology. With political independence from the United States in 1946, the Philippines is now out to win its economic independence and stability by meeting its own problems in relation to those of other peoples and nations.

## II

To me the most impressive development in your state is that of agriculture. Although only a very small portion of the total area of the state is under cultivation, practically all the farm lands are under irrigation. Arizona agriculture is irrigation agriculture. I understand that of your 1.2 million acres of cultivated farmlands over 95% is irrigated. Many people said that even the uncultivated lands must be as rich as those now under farms, but the problem is lack of water.

What you have done with your fertile farm districts such as the Gila Valley, Salt River Valley, Casa Grande Valley, and Yuma Valley are the results of irrigation. But your irrigation water has not only literally made your deserts blossom; they have also saved your farmers from crop failure. Where water storage and wells had removed the hazards of pioneer agriculture, you have now modern dams and impounding facilities that regulate the flow of your streams. All these have assured your farmlands an adequate water supply which for practical purposes mean avoidance of crop failures. With your sunshine and more or less even temperature, an assured water supply not only means assured farm production but also a stable agriculture for your state.

The spectacular advances in agriculture in Arizona could not have been what it is today if it were not for the development of irrigation water from the Roosevelt Dam (completed in 1911), the Yuma reclamation project (1912), the Coolidge Dam on the Gila impounding irrigation water and power (1929), the Hoover Dam on the Colorado, (1936), the Bartlett Dam and Horseshoe Dam on the Verde River, These reclamation and irrigation projects stabilized the area under farms, increased production, and consequently brought about a rapid increase in population, and made possible the present modern cities and towns. On the plains and valleys, the combination of soil and water and man-made irrigation would not have been enough to make the state of Arizona what it is today. I understand that

the production of new crops and the control of pests and diseases have been supported by the findings of many years of research. Agricultural research supported by the state made possible the use of better varieties of crops, better control of pests and diseases, improved use of water, and the utilization of modern machinery and equipment. In these improvements, the role of the College of Agriculture and its experimental farms in the river valleys played a significant part in undertaking essential research projects. I was also told that in September, 1953, the University's College of Agriculture dedicated a modern research building with the necessary laboratories for the study and research in the problems of irrigation, of improved agriculture in Arizona.

### III

Another most impressive aspect of your state which caught my attention is the development of power for the farms and for the mining and manufacturing industries. The Colorado River alone, I understand, could develop over five million horsepower. With the construction of the Hoover dam and other electric generating plants on the Colorado, you have not only prevented a serious flood menace, but you have also controlled the river flows so as to minimize serious damages through silting of the river valleys and the washing away of valuable farm lands. I am told that the most imposing of these structures on the Colorado River is the Hoover dam completed on March 1, 1956, reputed to be the highest dam in the world. It now stores more than 30 million acre feet of water and has a capacity of some 4.3 billion kilowatt hours per year. This tremendous power system has electrified the farms of Arizona. They have also provided the necessary power for the mining and fertilizer industry as well as for light manufacturing industries all over the state.

Although other states would offer more locational advantages such as local markets, easily accessible raw materials, more adequate labor supply, more local capital for investment, more attractive freight rates, and so on, there seem to be good reasons for the development of manufacturing in Arizona. For one thing, there is close proximity to military installations, particularly in southern Arizona. Intensified government activities during the war gave encouragement to various kinds of light manufacturing industries under contract with the Federal Government. At best the policy of decentralization has played an important part in the development of manufacturing in Arizona. Perhaps the most important factor is your favorable climate. I understand you have today a large reservoir of labor supply, particularly professional and highly skilled workers; hence, the continued development of electronics manufacture, production of plane or plane parts, tools, building materials, manufacture of foodstuffs, and clothing manufacturing.

### IV

These observations, I must admit, give me an insight into some of the problems that we of an underdeveloped country have to face in bringing about stability and prosperity for our people. First of all, taking a cue from your own development, we must undertake long-range planning in the development of our river valleys and plains, particularly in the use of water. Although we have developed a large hydro-electric power in Luzon and another in Mindanao, we have a long way to go in harnessing our rivers and streams so that irrigation water and electric power may be made available to our farms and towns. The Central Plain of Luzon alone, not to speak of the alluvial plains in the islands of the Visayas and Mindanao, would require intensive planning to tap our rivers and underground water sources so that these large areas of cultivable land could produce increased yields in terms of more grain, vegetables, fruits, and livestock per acre. Not only these, but to develop the light industries dependent on the use of domestic raw materials, cheap electric power must be made available to the enterprisers in our towns and barrios.

In the second place, the construction of dams and power projects, of flood-control structures, and of tapping underground streams must involve the expenditure of large amounts of money. As your state has experienced, large proportions of these expenditures have been contributed by the Federal Government, but the local tax payers have also to do their bit for their construction and eventual development. In my country, I realize that we must develop new tax sources and improve our present tax system, besides using the capacity of the government to borrow directly from the people through the sale of government bonds, if we are to finance the irrigation and hydroelectric power, systems that are essential to our agriculture and industry. We must also develop the machinery of local government to handle the administration and financing of local irrigation systems and the development of the various structures for controlling floods, siltings, and normal soil erosion.

In the third place, as you have amply demonstrated here in Arizona, the combination of soil, water, and power does not by itself make successful enterprise. There must be trained entrepreneurs and efficient organizers who more than anything else make agriculture and industry nourish and enable the mines and forests to yield returns in terms of human welfare and happiness for the citizens.

In closing, I wish to assure the administration, the faculty, and the student body of the University of Arizona that today has been for me a most fruitful and edifying experience. In conferring upon me this degree which I hardly deserve, you have doubly honored me in that in paying tribute to your viable and dynamic political, social, and economic institutions, I have gained further insight into and appreciation of, our country's basic problems. I have no doubt that we can in no small measure borrow, and even adapt, from your own examples the ways and means of solving our manifold problems for the happiness and welfare of our citizens. I am going back to my own country rich in the memories of this special occasion and with the fond hope that our parallel development may in some distant future buttress one another in the defense of a common cause and in safeguarding our cherished freedoms and the democratic way of life.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia's before Joint Business Groups of New York City delivered at 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 24, New York Time (9:00 a.m., June 25, Manila Time)**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH BEFORE JOINT BUSINESS GROUPS OF NEW YORK CITY DELIVERED AT 8:00 P.M., TUESDAY, JUNE 24, NEW YORK TIME (9:00 A.M., JUNE 25, MANILA TIME)**

MY FRIENDS:

I COME to your great city of New York to convey to you warm greetings from your 23 million Filipino friends. On their behalf, let me express deep appreciation for the honor you have accorded me on this occasion where the leaders in business, industry, and finance of the capital of the world in business are gathered.

While I am overwhelmed by your hospitality and overawed by the grandeur of your city, I feel at home here for I see around me familiar faces of friends of the Philippines who have identified themselves with our country and are interested in our future.

Now, why must the United States be interested in Asia and particularly in the Philippines? Because the United States is the leader of the Free World and the events in Asia will decide whether American leadership wins or loses. Because the Philippines has chosen to cast its lot with the United States and our success is vital to America's prestige in that section of the world.

What are America's stakes in Asia? American investment in Asia doubled in seven years from \$400 million in 1951 to \$800 million today—your own department of commerce estimates. This constitutes only about 4 per cent of the total American investment abroad. Set against the backdrop of the dynamic changes taking place in the Far East with the rebuilding of war-ravaged economies, the emergence of new nations and the race for industrialization and economic development, this investment is meager indeed. It is clear that opportunities are not being availed of to develop the long run relationship which would be mutually profitable to both Asians and Americans.

I need not tell you that Asia supplies two-thirds of your tin, almost all of your crude rubber, copra, and jute, and a large part of your sugar, tea, silk, and spices. Asia is also potentially a huge market for your trucks, tractors, machinery, electrical equipment, and fertilizers. Your trade with Asia has trebled in 10 years from \$1 billion in 1948 to over \$3 billion today. Your economic growth brings with it expanding need for raw materials which cannot be met without increases in productivity everywhere, including Asia, for the continued economic expansion of America. She must export capital and develop international trade.

These basic truths are fundamental to world progress. Politically, America as the leader of the Free world cannot afford to be indifferent to the political destiny of one billion Asians, particularly her friends and allies who have chosen the side of democracy visavis communism.

I need not remind you of the special ties and relation between our two countries—not only economic and cultural bonds but ideological as well. In 1956 we were the United States' second largest trading partner in Asia and the 12th largest in the world. American investments in my country are estimated to be approximately \$250 million. American cultural and political legacies to the Philippines are incalculable and imperishable. The Philippines is blessed with an abundance of natural resources. Spread out over a tropical archipelago of more than 7,000 islands are lush forests, valuable minerals, like gold, copper, silver, chromite, and some of the world's richest iron and nickel deposits. There is an almost inexhaustible power potential possible from the harnessing of our many rivers and waterfalls. Our agricultural products of copra, sugar, and hemp are known and used far and wide.

Our people have a democratic way of life and have rejected and outlawed communism. Our labor force is the most highly educated in southeast Asia. Yet, in spite of our latent wealth we import a large portion of our essential needs. Our export earnings largely depend on four agricultural products which make us extremely vulnerable to inflation or recession whenever either affects our principal trading partners. Almost 40 per cent of our national income comes from agriculture yet we suffer from insufficient food production.

In addition, a growing population which now stands at 23 million as compared to 16 million shortly before the war makes it imperative to raise levels of production through industrialization and, consequently, to accelerate capital formation. However, like any underdeveloped country, we find ourselves in what economists describe as the vicious circle of poverty. This means that we cannot amass enough capital because of low income to generate higher levels of income which in turn would enable us to amass more capital to generate still higher levels of income. Indeed as population increased without compensating growth in the economic system that sustained it, we could expect incomes to become more and more depressed and capital formation more and more difficult. In other words we would be faced not merely with economic immobility but even with economic retrogression.

To break out of the vicious circle might take more than present capital resources available within the economy. This is why external financing is an urgent need to the underdeveloped countries in their struggle for economic progress. Furthermore, any development program undertaken by an underdeveloped economy requires large initial expenditures of foreign exchange for the purchase of industrial machinery and certain raw materials. Thus the country's earnings and holdings of foreign exchange would set an effective limit to any scheme of economic expansion.

It is an almost universal fact that an underdeveloped country's exchange earnings through exports fall short of import requirements when economic development is pursued, resulting in balance of payments crises. Often the only antidote to prevent such ills from becoming chronic is the injunction of large doses of foreign capital in the form of loans, credits, and investments. One of the main objectives sought during my trip here is to secure external financing in the form of loans and credits for Philippine economic development, particularly for projects that will produce a favorable climate for the private industries. I would also like to interest private businessmen and industrialists in the possibilities of investment in my country not only to assist us in our development but also to share with us the benefits that accrue from such development.

Since 1949 the Philippines has pursued an industrialization program designed to mobilize our resources with all possible speed towards the formation of a balanced agro-industrial society which would be capable of absorbing the growing labor force and furnishing the people with a rising level of income and better standards of living. A measure of success has been achieved in that overall production has expanded by 63 per cent in contrast to a 16 per cent increase in population. Paid-in private capital investment rose during the same period from \$172 million to \$750 million. More than 13,000 manufacturing firms were established to turn out a wider variety of products. Public expenditures grew from \$225 million to \$600 million as the government built dams, hydroelectric power plants, irrigation and flood control systems, and hundreds of miles of highway and feeder roads.

We have thus far depended on our own resources for the bulk of our development projects and have attained a rate of economic growth which is one of the highest in Asia today. However, financing of this growth has now reached 'proportions which exceed our present readily available resources; hence, we must temporarily resort to external credits. We cannot afford to slacken the pace of economic development, and the momentum we have achieved must be maintained else we would be courting social unrest and nullifying all past gains. Moreover, there now exists in the country an eagerness to invest and to industrialize which was absent a few years ago. It would be tragic not to take advantage of this situation; it would also be tragic to retard the exploitation of our rich natural resources for lack of capital and foreign exchange.

Many undeveloped countries have large populations but are poor in natural resources. The Philippines, however, is altogether different like some countries which are now industrialized. We possess within our borders basic resources which are the raw materials of industry. Left to ourselves we realize that we do not have the capacity to mobilize enough domestic capital to sustain the rate of development and industrialization necessary for progress towards eventual self-sufficiency. We have, therefore, made it our policy to welcome *bona fide* foreign investors who are willing to stake their capital in the development of our country in anticipation of fair and reasonable returns.



Today, we find foreign investments in the Philippines spread through a cross-section of the economy in basic industries such as mining, logging, agriculture, fishing, and manufacturing, as well as transportation, trade, building construction, and the professional services. They have been substantial during the past few years, totalling nearly \$2.5 billion from 1950 to 1956. However, they have not been as great as we would have wanted. Some of your more familiar industrial names have large investments in my country; among them, we may mention the multimillion dollars petroleum refinery of Caltex in the province of Batangas, Proctor and Gamble's Philippine Manufacturing Company, Lever Brother's Philippine Refining Company in Manila, the Goodrich International Rubber Company, Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, and the Reynolds Aluminum Company in the suburbs.

Even in public utilities we find the Manila Electric Company and the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company with majority foreign participation. Plans of the Standard Vacuum Oil Company to set up a huge refinery in historic Bataan province have been approved by our National Economic Council with 1960 as the target date for completion of the project. Oil exploration is also being carried out by foreign capital.

All these attest to the confidence of the investors in my country's future and I venture to say that this confidence has not been misplaced. I believe that conditions in the Philippines today are generally favorable for foreign investment. We adhere to the principle of private free enterprise; our people and government are not obsessed by the fear of colonial exploitation at every turn. Our political atmosphere is orderly and stable in contrast to so many other countries in our part of the world. Peace and order is not a problem. Neither has there been a serious labor dispute that has not been amicably resolved through arbitration under the law. On the contrary our country has a pool of untapped labor resources which is wanting of employment.

We are by nature a friendly people with a long Christian tradition behind us and our staunch anti-communism has been tested on the field of battle and of social action. What foreign investors probably are most apprehensive of in committing funds abroad is the risk of nationalization and expropriation of property by the government. As far as the Philippines is concerned, such fears are groundless.

We believe in love of country and the right to chart our destiny under a democratic form of government, but we also believe in upholding our dignity as a nation by living up to any commitments that we might freely enter into. While foreign investment brings with it its own foreign exchange requirements and its technical and administrative know-how, we in the Philippines realize that any foreign capital we accept also commits us to provide for the periodic remittance of profits to the investors abroad and the eventual repayment of the principal. Existing regulations allow the foreign investor to remit abroad from 25 to 100 per cent of his net profits annually. The actual percentage applied depends on the priority level of his business which is based on its contribution to the national income and employment, to the strengthening of the country's balance of payments position, and to the supply of essential commodities for the economy. Remittable profits in one year may run to as high as 60 per cent of the total foreign investment. Compare this with the 10 to 20 per cent ranges of profit remittance set by other underdeveloped countries. Furthermore, our laws guarantee that the investor may repatriate his capital back to his home country after five years of operation at the rate of 20 per cent a year.

In this regard, American investments are afforded great advantage under the investment guaranty program of the ICA which ensures currency convertibility of their profits and capital and protects them from loss through expropriation, confiscation of war. Under the Laurel-Langley agreement, American investments are accorded the same treatment as purely Filipino capital. Regarding investments by other nationals, our laws place limitations only on ownership of land and extractive industries, on those that directly exploit natural resources, and on establishments engaged in the retail trade.

There is larger scope in the Philippines, therefore, for foreign investment than in other parts of Asia. As to American nationals, they are given under the so-called parity amendment to our Constitution exactly the same rights as Filipinos in the ownership of land, utilization of natural resources, and the establishment of public utilities.

It is not possible at present to meet all the demands for foreign exchange made upon our international reserve. Because of this, the controls governing remittances of profits are a temporary necessity and will be done away with as soon as the Philippine balance of payments position permits. We may not be rich in foreign exchange. If foreign

exchange is measured in terms of marketable and varied resources awaiting development, we are blessed with abundance.

Other factors which favor the investors are the extensive social overhead projects which the government has undertaken, such as networks of roads, bridges, port, and air terminal facilities and hydroelectric plants to supply power for industry at low cost. Several basic industrial projects have been launched by the public authority to bridge the gap between heavy primary industries and secondary industries into which private capital hesitates to venture at present, such as the several steel mills and smelting plants which form important link in the chain of an integrated steel industry and which enable the country to process its own native ores instead of exporting them unrefined. All these provide a base of which private capital can build its factories in reasonable security.

I also wish to mention that Philippine corporate taxes are still among the lowest in the world and tax relief is even available under the law to new and necessary industries. It is only right that the investor should seek to make reasonable profit but he should also make a sincere effort to understand our people and the manifold problems facing us in our struggle for economic progress. He must try to accomplish tangible good for the country by channeling his capital into productive enterprises which fill a real need in our economic framework.

As an incentive to this, our government has established the priority system I mentioned earlier, which allows the foreign investor in essential economic sectors to remit abroad a larger portion of his profits than would be permitted less essential enterprises. We shall certainly review our laws governing investments and revise them where improvement is possible with the objective of liberalizing, rather than restricting, economic activity.

I would like to draw your attention to the possibilities to be found in the entry of foreign capital on a joint-venture basis with local capital. International teamwork can prove very worthwhile to the partners in enterprise, not only materially but psychologically as well. It would involve not merely the transfer of wealth from one part of the world to another but the creation of new wealth itself through a merger of capital, foreign and native entrepreneurial skill, and the country's natural resources.

It has been observed that some foreign corporations, while decrying and fearing nationalism on the one hand, seek to reserve for themselves complete ownership and administration of their overseas firm on the other. Perhaps without realizing it, these corporations themselves practice an insidious kind of nationalism. If, in spite of their immense investment in plant and technology, these corporations should decide to offer part ownership of the overseas firms to local residents, the cause of international friendship and understanding would indeed be far advanced.

I reaffirm the readiness of my government to do everything reasonable to assure a congenial atmosphere in which foreign and native capital can work effectively together in our economic development. In this we shall be guided by what is best in the spirit of both nationalism and internationalism, and I pledge my administration to maintain a consistent and constant economic policy, one which will be applied without fear or favor, with an eye single to the best interests of the people.

Our immediate need is for economic expansion. Being businessmen, you can well understand how growing enterprises need external financing, whether they be individual firms, great corporations, or even nations. In seeking loans, credits or new investments, the logical thing would be to approach one's friends first. This what my country is doing today.

Our progress in economic development is crucial not only to the 22 million people who would directly benefit from it but to your country as well. Our strengthening could mean the strengthening of the economic power of the free world, particularly in restless and troubled Asia.

We must recognize that, today, there exists an imperative need to show that the methods, techniques, and resources of free nations are better and more abundant than those of the communist world. Only by acting with boldness and decision will the free world assure underdeveloped lands that the path to true progress does not lie within the economic orbit of communism. We know that communism builds its economic gains upon the misery and suffering of millions denied the dignity of men.

Free enterprise and democracy offer the best solution and they make for a way of life that alone can give happiness and security that is abiding. This, we know, we can prove with your encouragement and your help.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines College of Law Library**

**Speech of President Garcia before the World Affairs Council, Los Angeles, California, at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 26, California Time (11:30 a.m. Friday, June 27, Manila Time)**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH BEFORE THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, AT 7:30 P.M. THURSDAY, JUNE 26, CALIFORNIA TIME (11:30 A.M. FRIDAY, JUNE 27, MANILA TIME)**

THIS GENEROUS welcome that you have accorded me this afternoon, more than an expression of hospitality, is really a token of our mutual pride over Philippine-American relationship covering half a century of a momentous era in world affairs.

May I point out, at the outset, three highlights of that relationship:

First: For the first time in history, a great power fixed a definite date for independence. It was an unparalleled and revolutionary idea at the time. It was all the more significant because such an unprecedented policy was laid down by a country which was not declining in power but was on the ascendant and which, in fact, would soon be regarded as the most powerful in the world. History will appraise more accurately than we can the long-range effects of America's enlightened policy towards the Philippines. Nothing, however, can alter the fact that my country was the first of the former colonies in Asia and the Far East to attain independence through peaceful negotiation. The creative process of liberation which in the past ten years has brought a dozen nations with some 7,000 million peoples into the community of free states had its beginning in Manila when the Republic of the Philippines was inaugurated on the fourth of July, 1946.

Second: No less significant were the means employed to achieve this end. From the outset, America renounced any intention of governing the Philippines for its own benefit. At a time when exploitation of colonies and dependencies was the rule, America inaugurated a revolutionary concept of government epitomized in the sentence, "The Philippines for the Filipinos." Faithful to its own libertarian traditions, the United States respected the Filipino people's ceaseless aspiration for freedom. The administration of the Philippines was considered a trust, and generous assistance was given to the Filipinos in the arduous task of preparing a nation for the responsibilities of sovereignty. The pattern of relationship thus established was the forerunner of two of the most constructive developments in today's world: the trusteeship system now administered by the United Nations and the programs of economic and technical assistance to economically under-developed countries.

Third: Moved by a common devotion to freedom, America and the Philippines quickly established firm bonds of friendship that have proved indestructible in peace and in war. During the ordeal of two world wars, the Philippines stood by the side of America, and never more steadfastly than in times of defeat and disaster during the Pacific war. And for its part, America has never hesitated to extend to the Philippines the protection of its immense strength as well as share with us the blessings of its abundance. Our two countries, we can with justifiable pride say, have given our divided world an example showing that when nations, no matter how geographically distant, or culturally and racially different, are willing to defend freedom together and to establish democratic institutions to safeguard their people's liberty, there is formed between them indissoluble ties of amity on the strength of which they can draw in moments of grave crisis.

These are the inspiring lessons of half a century of Philippine-American relationship. No less inspiring were some of the related episodes of the epoch which gave life and substance to such results. I recall the great debates that resounded in your halls of Congress when the issue of Philippine independence was examined in the full light of free inquiry and in good time was settled—as all such fateful issues between nations should be settled—peacefully on the basis of principle, of law and justice. I remember the decades of contractive work prior to independence, when some of your outstanding men as well as hundreds of good, average Americans spent the best years of their lives among our people, sharing with us the high adventure of nation-building. I recall the war years when Filipinos and Americans fought side by side in Bataan and Corregidor, in Lingayen and Leyte, unconquered by defeat, chastened by victory. I was a witness to that shining hour in the morning of July 4, 1946, when the Stars and Stripes, which had first been raised in conquest over Manila some forty years before, was lowered in glory by a voluntary act of the American people, to give way to the Sun and Stars of an independent Philippines.

Mutual cooperation in that task of nation-building, comradeship in war, partnership in peace—thus can Philippine-American relationship be best summarized.

It has not been lost to us Asians that in your constant re-evaluation of the manifold problems you face incident to your leadership in world affairs, Asia now looms large in your calculations. As the head of state which had been and will continue to be your friend and ally, I ask you to reassess your responsibilities in Asia in the light of the great lessons which Philippine-American relationship had yielded to the mutual benefit of our two peoples.

The area of South and Southeast Asia is in ferment; powerful currents of change are in motion and it is not always clear what direction they will take and what goals are sought by them. There was a time when it was confidently believed that the one and only goal of all was freedom and democracy. It is true the new Asian states were, and still are, largely inspired by democratic ideals; by choice, they established republican or parliamentary systems of government, and they evolved economic and social programs designed to elevate the living standards of their peoples.

It must be stressed, however, that three factors have tended to change the picture. The first is the inherent difficulty of providing their peoples with a better life and give them freedom from want. Without exception, the new Asian states have had to face almost overwhelming problems of poverty, lack of capital and trained personnel, inadequate technical know-how, undeveloped and malformed economics, over-population in relation to available resources, and the inertia and lack of initiative induced by centuries of foreign rule. The second factor is the relentless, unscrupulous, and increasing effective Communist penetration of the area. The third is the decline of western influence and the failure so far to establish with Free Asia a relationship fully responsive to its needs and aspirations.

These three danger signals must be heeded because they post a great potential danger to the cause of freedom. The Communist political, economic, and cultural offensive is being intensified in Free Asia precisely at time when many of the Asian states are experiencing a deep sense of frustration and, unfortunately, a growing estrangement from the West.

Already we have seen some disquieting portents. To South and Southeast Asia belongs the dubious distinction of having given communism for the first time in its history something it had sought in vain elsewhere: the respectability and power conferred by substantial victories in free elections. At this moment a great and populous Southeast Asian country is convulsed by an internal conflict arising in part from the issue of communist participation in the national government. Elsewhere, there are signs of a potentially disastrous drift towards extremism as achievements fall short of minimum goals and democratic institutions and methods appear less than adequate to the task of bringing to fruition the great goals of the Asian revolution.

What is to be done in the face of this challenging situation? Asia is too large a segment of the earth and too important in numbers, geographical position, and resources to be written off as a bad risk or a lost cause. The free world cannot lose Asia and still hope to survive, let alone prevail. There is no alternative to meeting the challenge in Asia.

The only question is, how can it best be done? The first step required, it seems to me, is to recognize the fact that present policies have only partially achieved their objective. Taken separately, those policies have undoubtedly been soundly conceived, and there is no questioning the sincerity and earnestness with which they have been implemented.

The Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, popularly known as the Manila Pact, and the Pacific Charter, have been particularly useful and should be all means be maintained. Within its self-imposed limits, it has helped to deter open aggression in South and Southeast Asia and is doing valuable work assisting member governments to identify, expose, and counter communist subversion, at present the major threat to the security of the area. Bilateral arrangements for mutual defense and for economic and technical aid also fulfill a most useful function. The Colombo Plan, now in its seventh year, has given the countries in the area substantial assistance in increasing production of basic commodities, augmenting available capital and training technical personnel. Within their means, the United Nations and its specialized agencies are likewise doing a commendable job.

These are worthwhile programs and no fair-minded critic can find fault with them. But in the totality of their effect, they have somehow fallen short of their mark. There is need, therefore, for re-appraisal in order to strengthen present policies and programs where they have proved to be inadequate, and perhaps to chart and move boldly into new courses of action where fresh initiative is needed.

I would commend to your consideration three such courses of action:

First, as far back as 1950, in the Southeast Asia Conference held in Baguio, the Asian nations made it clear that their security should not be made secondary to that of any other area. It is a significant commentary on the so-called "Summit" talks that, eight years after that Southeast Asia Conference, hardly any mention of Asian security has been made on the western side. Yet the free Asian states are among the most exposed in the world, not only to the danger of open aggression from the vast and steadily growing Communist forces in the North but also to a greater extent than anywhere else—to Communist infiltration and subversion in all its forms. Surely, without minimizing the importance of political settlements primarily affecting Europe and other parts of the West, it should also be possible to show equal concern for the fate of free Asia. The fact that there are no easy solutions to this problem is beside point. The important thing is for the initiative as well as the serious and sustained search for such solutions to come from the great powers of the free world rather than from the opposing side. The Asian nations should never be given cause to feel (as some of them did during the war) that their destiny is of no more than secondary interest to the great powers of the West. Psychologically, it is of the utmost importance that free Asia should not appear to be disregarded or ignored in any serious attempt to reach high-level agreements leading to disarmament or peace. The temptation to deal with the problem of security within the narrow framework of armed strength, economic potential, and balance of power should be consciously resisted. Psychological and moral factors should be taken fully into account. Too often, it is forgotten that a free Asia's deepest hunger is not for rice and fish but for equality and status and a position of dignity in the community of nations.

Secondly, either within the framework of the United Nations or by agreement between the nations concerned, that a policy be adopted regarding the remaining colonies and dependencies in Asia and elsewhere based on a program for the orderly and reasonably rapid progress of those territories toward self-government as well as for providing them with such economic and technical assistance as they may need when they shall have become independent.

While it is true that nearly all of the former colonies in Asia have attained independence, the issue of colonialism continues to concern them deeply, and they feel affected when conflicts about self-determination arise in the remaining colonial territories. Moreover, the free world, engaged as it is in a struggle for survival, can ill afford the cost in money, precious lives, hostility, bitterness, and disunity in its ranks exacted by the periodic and increasing dangerous crises in the colonial territories. It should be one of the major objectives of free world policy to set at rest all doubts about the future of the remaining colonies, to persuade the peoples in those territories that their best hopes for self-determination and a better life lies in constructive cooperation with the powers concerned, and thus remove an issue that has, time and time again, grievously divided and weakened the free world. Our Philippine-American experience is an excellent example. Because the question of Philippine independence was settled at least in principle, at the beginning of our relationship, our two countries were able to develop goodwill and friendship, and our confidence in America was enhanced gradually and it developed into the trust that has won our loyalty.

The third suggestion is the formulation of a comprehensive long-term economic policy that would enable not only the United States but all other industrialized countries of the free world which are in a position to do so, to undertake with the under-developed countries a joint program of mutually profitable economic development. It may seem over-ambitious to propose a program on this scale at this particular time. But careful study will show that it is well within the capability of the free world, given the conviction that it is a good thing to do and that it has the will to undertake it. The program should be adequate to the needs of the under-developed countries, both as to capital and technical assistance; it should be divorced from political or security condition; and should be aimed solely at the attainment of the widest measure of prosperity and rising standards of living in the participating countries, respecting at all time the sovereignty of the nations concerned.

A program of this magnitude would kindle the enthusiasm of the free Asian and other under-developed countries. It would engage their creative energies and at the same time stimulate production and employment in the industrialized countries. As the untapped resources of the underdeveloped countries become available for consumption and

commerce, two-way trade would expand and generate new levels of prosperity. But infinitely more valuable than the material benefits that would accrue from the program would be the sense of partnership and kinship that it is bound to engender. It would serve as a powerful catalyst, uniting East and West with a strong sense of common purpose. It would provide a broad and durable foundation for the establishment of a constructive and mutually satisfying relationship between the industrialized and under-developed countries. From such a relationship will develop community of interests, pride of achievement, and the united strength essential for survival.

It is of crucial importance, I believe, for the great democracies of the West to be aware of Asia's problems and needs and to make the Asian peoples feel they are linked by a common purpose and a solidarity of ideals, so linked that they are consulted on matters of common concern, to agree to a policy of extension of freedom to the remaining colonies, and to work and plan for the raising of living standards of the under-developed areas. The best means to achieve this end is joint involvement in the great enterprise of providing a better life for the vast majority of mankind. The struggle for survival will not be won by the West alone or by Asia alone; it will require the best they can do together with the rest of the free world, drawing fully on their human and material resources.

I have spoken of a sense of common purpose. Even more essential, I think, is a sense of mission, a sense of dedication. Great sacrifices, heroic effort, deep and sustained devotion to freedom and human betterment—all these will be demanded in generous measure. I am confident they will be willingly and gladly offered, for free men have never yet failed to rise to the challenge whenever their way of life has been threatened as it is menaced seriously today. The Philippines is a small country, but in this epic struggle we have made it clear we refuse to be on the sidelines. Our history, our tradition, and our very instinct as free men make it impossible for us to be neutral in a contest in which the highest spiritual values are involved and the very life of the free world is at stake. We have made our choice. There is no twilight zone for free men. It is freedom or slavery. Proudly we stand with you and with the host of free peoples irrevocably for freedom.

*Source:* University of the Philippines College of Law Library

**Speech of President Garcia at the AFP Loyalty Parade for the Commander-in-Chief, Camp Murphy, Quezon City, July 3, 1957 Speech**

**of**

**His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia**

**President of the Philippines**

**At the AFP Loyalty Parade for the Commander-in-Chief**

[Delivered at Camp Murphy, Quezon City on July 3, 1957]

PRESIDENT

YOUR

SECRETARY

GENERAL

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES:

AGUINALDO,

EXCELLENCIES,

BALAO,

ARELLANO,

I AM deeply moved by this solemn and unprecedented occasion when, for the first time in an otherwise traditional rite of reaffirming the loyalty of the Armed Forces to its Constitutional Commander-in-Chief, we have invoked the substance and inspiration of our nation's history in order to reaffirm something higher and nobler yet than routine constitutional duty:—the pledge to God and fellow humankind that human dignity and the liberties of the individual are to be maintained and kept sacred in our Christian and freedom-loving land. We are here sanctifying through this solemn ceremony, heavy with the aura of our glorious past and the remembrance of our heroes and martyrs, the true substance of our people's independence, the 11th, anniversary of which is commemorated tomorrow.

In honoring General Aguinaldo, the first President of our First Republic, on this historic occasion, we symbolically weld the past with the present into the solid substance of Filipino nationalism which in Rizal's time, in General Aguinaldo's time, and in the time of our people's ordeal at Bataan and Corregidor, and to this duty-laden present, was, and is, and shall always be, a defiance of all forms of tyranny and oppression, a challenge to all forms of obscurantism and other evil forces of darkness, a rejection of all totalitarian creeds and ideologies, and an unceasing promotion of the well-being and prosperity of all our people, and the steady pursuit of the ideals of freedom, dignity, and self-respect.

The pursuit and defense of freedom and human dignity are endless duties. We have as a people engaged with a united will, with incomparable capacity for sacrifice, with inexhaustible love and loyalty, in that glorious pursuit from Lapu-Lapu, to Rizal and Aguinaldo, to Jose Abad Santos, to Ramon Magsaysay. In so doing we have won stature and respect as a member of the family of free nations.

We are therefore beholden to our ancestors, brave and free men who founded this nation on this rich and beautiful cluster of islands,—a priceless treasure which is ours to enjoy and to cherish, to defend and to enrich further with our labors and our genius. We are beholden to our heroes and martyrs and all outstanding men of our race, the dead as well as the living, who have given us much to be proud of, who have bequeathed to us valuable legacies worthy of perpetuation. We are beholden, too, to all our fellow humankind who share with us, as we share with them, the same united devotion to the ideals and institutions of freedom and human liberty, of human dignity, of progress and growth, which are the free man's valid warrant for tenure in the fathomless mystery of life.

We are beholden, finally, to our sincere and sympathetic friends of another race and nation—the Americans—who have been and continue to be of assistance to us in the unending tasks of nation-building, in strengthening the ramparts of liberties, in developing the sinews of our national economy, that the institutions of freedom and justice will rest secure in the confidence of the nation and air nations of the free world. History moves sometimes with easy and slow stages; at other times, in the inscrutable ways of the Lord of Creation, it moves by leaps and bounds. Sometimes the duties of nations are instinct with high and dramatic purposes, attuned to those great leaps of progress in the history of man; at other times, the duties are humble, simple, and earthbound—wrapped in the common dross of human existence.



Officers and soldiers, it is my wish that you continue your noble task of protecting our home and hearth; that you maintain that peace with which we have labored hard, fought hard, and prayed hard to attain through the crowded decades of our national life; that you continue to assist the other departments of our government in the rapid implementation of our rural development program; and that you keep yourselves so instructed in the basic creeds of soldiery that you may stand shoulder to shoulder among the progressive armies of nations.

Friends and countrymen, on the eve of the national commemoration of the attainment of our independence, and at this historic hour, let me make this solemn pledge that as long as I am the Chief Executive of our Republic and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, I will not tolerate nor countenance any pollution of the ballot, any frustration or perversion of the popular will as expressed through the vote, or any illicit, or unconstitutional interference of the military in the conduct of elections. Our proud history has entitled us to the claim of guardianship over democratic institutions. That claim and duty of guardianship must be fulfilled even at the price of personal sacrifice so as to insure the integrity and purity of the ballot. If those who are in power must face defeat, let it be; but nothing must be done to tarnish the sanctity of the free man's vote.

Fellow countrymen, we are still in the midst of test and trial in the transcendental task of democracy-building in Asia. We must emerge triumphant out of this acid test. We cannot, therefore, afford selfish ambition or interest to weaken the foundation of democracy in this country—the faith of the people in the government. We shall therefore permit this year or any other year only free, clean, and honest election. Fraud and terrorism must never again be allowed to destroy and undermine democracy. As your Commander-in-Chief, that is my order to all officers and men of the Armed Forces.

Devotion to the institutions of freedom and human liberty, faith in the ideals for which our heroes and martyrs immolated themselves, undying hope in the greatness of our destiny as a people—these are the substance and meaning of the deep gratitude I express to you, men of the Armed Forces. This I express in all humility and love on this occasion when you and I honor the living symbol of our greatest libertarian struggle, General Aguinaldo. In honoring him and what he stands for, we have honored ourselves and exalted our deathless nationalism.

Thank you, and may the Lord's blessing be upon us all.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

## **Speech of President Garcia on Independence Day, July 4, 1957**

### **Speech of His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia President of the Philippines On the Independence of the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Independence Memorial Grandstand on July 4, 1957]

MY FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

THE cycle of time has brought us once more to the fourth day of July, that day which we celebrate with reverence and joy as marking our emergence as a unified and independent nation of free men. Today, throughout our beloved land, in the quiet countryside and in crowded city streets, the millions of our people gaze upward with misty eyes at the bright flag of the Republic, proclaiming to the world our sovereign nationhood. I know that the throb of pride and happiness in my heart is echoed in the bosom of each and every one of you.

There is good reason for our pride, good reason for each of us to share in a sense of national accomplishment. Freedom is a right of man. Independence is a right of peoples. But the history of man tells us that neither freedom nor independence is lightly or easily achieved. As we very well know, they are the prize of ceaseless efforts, and to keep them securely within our grasp calls for a continued struggle. Our own struggle was long and it ranged from the field of battle to the area of ideas. But ours was the prize of victory and, as we enter the second decade of our national existence, there is basis for the conviction that with God's help, it will never be wrested from us.

This Republic was born upon the ruins of a land laid waste by a terrible war, its people exhausted by long years of suffering, its social, political, and economic structure very badly shaken from its foundations. It came into being in a world equally ravaged, its air still heavy with hate, fear, and distrust. Men and nations were still under the influence of wartime jungle law, and the agents of Communism already were prowling all over the earth, feeding upon human misery and chaos. The outlook for this infant nation was indeed black.

How have we met the challenge? Does the chronicle of our experience bear out the prophets of doom? On the contrary, I hold that the history of our Republic during this critical period of its existence is one of the bright pages in the annals of man, a glowing justification of our confidence in our selves and of the encouragement and sympathy of our friends abroad.

In a world plagued by post-war scarcity, disruption of trade, and general economic confusion we painfully reconstructed our own economy by bringing to bear our native ingenuity and resourcefulness upon whatever materials were at hand. To me, the lowly jeepney—so often the object of our derision and irritation—is a symbol of our sturdy refusal to acknowledge defeat. When standard transportation was still not to be had, these unique creations of Filipino imagination and resourcefulness appeared to meet a vital community need, their gaily painted bodies a banner of cheerful challenge to adversity.

In much the same way we came to grips with other problems and surmounted other obstacles gradually but steadily, restoring our material means of existence and, in some measure, even rising above our pre-war levels. America helped us in this effort but, herself bearing the awesome burden of world-wide reconstruction, told us honestly that the major effort would have to be our own. It was, and it is this very fact that is the source of greatest pride in our national accomplishment.

No nation today, lives alone. The greatest powers are affected in some measure by events transpiring in lands thousands of miles distant. The smallest powers, likewise affected by the same token, exert influence far beyond or independent of their size. Thus, in taking the measure of our national accomplishment we must give due weight to the world environment in which it was achieved. We must relate it to the record of others in similar circumstances,

making such comparisons not for the purpose of feeding our vanity but rather that we may pass accurate judgment upon the effectiveness of our own policies.

The result of such survey is indeed encouraging. As I have already pointed out, the magnitude and nature of our economic reconstruction and expansion, while not up to our needs and hopes, is most impressive when judged against the background of a strained and disrupted world economy. Other nations better endowed with resources and experience have suffered painful and damaging fluctuations of price levels and currency values while we have succeeded in keeping both within a relatively narrow and controlled range. Other peoples have had to suffer far more drastic denial of essential—let alone luxury—imports with no commensurate improvement of their national finances.

Let us view other aspects of our internal situation in the same light. Against a world background of toppling governments, civil wars, tragic losses to Communist assault, destroying their military strength and winning their followers with a program of democratic social justice as opposed to the false promises of red propagandists. To cope with the more subtle forms of Communist aggression, we have just pioneered a legislative defense in which the mask of social justice is ripped from the sinister face of Communism, revealing it as a criminal conspiracy and prescribing stern punishment for those who encourage or take part in its plot to destroy our free institutions.

I have signed into law the CAFA bill, outlawing the Communist Party of the Philippines. With the CAFA law, Republic Act No. 1700, our people have not only officially made the fight against Communism a matter of national policy but we have also acquired a potent weapon in the fight against subversion. We invoked the police powers of a sovereign state to protect itself and the institutions entrusted to its care from criminal attack.

At the same time, we have successfully pursued by peaceful democratic means the liquidation of feudalism and the application of significant agrarian and other social reforms for which other peoples have shed blood. And certainly a legitimate source of pride is the manner in which, contrasted with the bitter experience of others, we have effected desired changes in our government by orderly constitutional process and without impairment of any of our precious civil liberties.

Under this program we have built 6,100 kilometers of developmental and feeder roads. We have drilled 8,483 artesian wells, thereby increasing potable water supply by 300 per cent in the rural areas. We have completed 32 national irrigation systems, 81 communal irrigation systems, area of 220,000 hectares, representing an increase of 200 per cent. We have erected more than 6,604 classroom units of prefabricated and other types of school buildings, accommodating 15 per cent more of children of school age. We have increased four times the health service appropriation from ₱12 million to ₱43 million, thereby enabling this administration to employ doctors, nurses, dentists, and midwives for the rural areas. Rural health units are now organized in 1,280 out of the 1,300 municipalities throughout the country.

While directing our national effort particularly on rural development, we have not lost sight of projects basic to industrial development. The country's potential for hydro-electrical power development alone is estimated at three million kilowatts and by the end of this year 13 per cent of this potential will have been developed ready to augment industrial activities in the principal areas. This means a total of 400,000 kilowatts of installed capacity where there were before only 180,300 kilowatts. When the Binga and the new Maria Cristina projects will have been completed in the early part of 1960, the country will be able to pursue intensively its rural electrification program which is already being installed in Central Luzon.

By and large we have gone far in our goal of agro-industrial economy envisioned in our five-year economic plan. The Administration has given land to the landless and home to the homeless by a vigorous prosecution of land reforms and housing projects. The Bureau of Lands during the last three years of this administration has granted a total of 124,200 land patents to home-steaders, covering 650,000 hectares of agricultural land.

In the field of commerce and industry, approximately 700 new industries have been established during our administration with the help and support of our foreign exchange reserve. We have extended help to agriculture by

subsidizing the farmers and extending to them extensive and undreamed of credit facilities through the AGCFA, the RFC, the PNB, and other financial institutions.

To help our retail merchants, we have appropriated and released ₱10 million apart from the assistance that the NAMARCO extends to Filipino retailers. We have done everything humanly possible to implement the National Retail Trade Act and all nationalization laws of the country.

In fine we have cut short distances and brought the people close to each other, and the government closer to the people. At no time in the history of our country has the masses of our people been given the opportunities for a richer and fuller life than today.

The task of nation-building is long, arduous, and continuous. It requires the united physical efforts, spiritual oneness, and firmness of objectives of all the people. While our young Republic is well on the highway of achieving the desired goal set by the architects of our national destiny, especially by my most illustrious predecessor in office, much yet remains to be done. And we need more time and resources to achieve our objective. In a world beset with uncertainties we cannot afford even for a moment to lose sight of our country's ultimate objective, much, less can we slacken in our task of nation-building owing to divisive forces that might dissipate the power of our people.

It is, therefore, most appropriate that we have adopted as the overall theme of this 11th anniversary of our independence: NATIONAL UNITY. Now more than ever, we should; put together our collective shoulders and will, and follow unflinchingly the path that will eventually lead us to be the full realization of our national destiny.

Turning to external affairs, what has been our role upon the world stage? What has been our contribution to the community of free nations of which we are a member? Here, I feel, we have risen considerably above our physical limitations in terms of both the quality and quantity of contribution and initiative. In the United Nations organization, our vigorous and consistent espousal of a world ruled by law, of peace secured by justice, and of the fundamental right of peoples to self-determination, has earned us the respectful attention of our neighbors. As early and active participants in the system of collective security proposed by the United States as a realistic solution to the problem of small nations unable to bear the tremendous costs of modern military defense, we share the credit in the demonstrated success of that system. World Communism was made to realize the danger of continuing its unbridled program of military expansion, and was forced to fall back upon its more devious tactics.

Closer to home we have been no less active and no less successful in developing closer intercourse, friendship, and understanding with our fellow Asians. At Bandung we demonstrated our community of interest with the peoples there represented and at the same time helped prevent the perversion of that historic meeting into a Communist propaganda medium. To the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Pact we not only contributed initiative and constructive participation but succeeded in securing commitment of the signatories to the pact to the vital principles of the Pacific Charter, an unequivocal repudiation of colonialism in any form, calling for orderly but speedy liquidation of its surviving remnants. On the more specific personal level, one of the most treasured fruits of our foreign relations is the friendship and gratitude of the people of the Republic of Vietnam to whom we extended a welcoming hand when they needed encouragement most, and with whom dedicated Filipino professional men and women have worked heroically to heal the wound of Communist aggression and flight from tyranny.

Our relations with the United States are particularly noteworthy. With this one time conqueror of our land we subsequently developed a warm and sympathetic friendship which reached its highest expression in the peaceful yielding to us of sovereignty on this date eleven years ago.

Our relations since that date might well serve as a pattern for the world community. Assistance has been extended and accepted by us in the spirit of friendship rather than subservience. We have cooperated in the achievement of common objectives with due respect for each other's views, freely exchanged as equals, and with the course of each party determined solely by sovereign initiative in serving the best national interest: Our policies have paralleled those of America only when it served our national interest to do so, on other occasions following an independent course. And be it said to America's credit that no pressure ever has been exerted to have us do otherwise. To that

great nation, which today celebrates its own achievement of independence, I know our people extend heartfelt greetings and a reaffirmation of our dedication to common ideals of peace, justice, and liberty.

In presenting these highlights of the early pages of what I trust will be the long and glorious history of our nation, I have deliberately left for the last what I personally consider to be a proud Filipino contribution to mankind. Unfortunately our pride in this contribution is overshadowed by grief. Our pride is in the fact that in this time of challenge and crisis our race produced a Ramon Magsaysay. Our grief is for the fact that he was too soon taken from us, that we were bereft of a great and dynamic leader still in the prime of his vigor, still holding in his hand so much of his people's future welfare.

There is no need to recall the grief of our people, who were as one in mourning his tragic death. But we may take some comfort and due pride in the fact that his passing was mourned not only by his own people, so many of whom knew him and loved him as a personal friend, but by the peoples of all nations as well. Certainly never in our history and rarely in the history of other nations has there been so universal an outpouring of sorrow from distant and unknown friends on every walk of life. This world-wide acknowledgment of Magsaysay's great qualities of leadership will remain as one of the most precious treasures of our nation's heritage. We cannot do less than to dedicate ourselves to the perpetuation of Magsaysay's ideals and principles as the foundation of this nation's aspiration.

Let this be a day not only of rejoicing but also one of solemn dedication and national unity. Reflecting upon our past, we draw strong hope for our future. As a people we have proved by deeds our right to be a nation. As a nation we have proved our competence to take, a position of dignity and honor in the community of free nations and to participate in the efforts of that community ultimately to embrace all peoples of the earth, a community in which man with God's blessing, may achieve its noblest design.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

**Speech of President Garcia at the blessing and laying of the cornerstone of the Jose Rizal National Cultural Shrine at Wallace Field at 11:00 a.m., Friday, July 4, under the auspices of the Jose Rizal National Centennial Commission** **PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH AT THE BLESSING AND LAYING OF THE CORNERSTONE OF THE JOSE RIZAL NATIONAL CULTURAL SHRINE AT WALLACE FIELD AT 11:00 A.M., FRIDAY, JULY 4, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE JOSE RIZAL NATIONAL CENTENNIAL COMMISSION**

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

IN THE PATRIOTIC and unending task of nation-building, I consider the laying of the cornerstone of the Rizal shrine a significant event because Jose Rizal was the greatest and the most enlightened of our nationalists. He it was who taught the highest principles of Filipinism and consecrated them with his supreme sacrifice. On this hallowed ground 60 years ago despotism tried to suppress his ideals by a bullet. It was a vain effort because his ideas were deathless. Truth cannot be suppressed. The voice of freedom cannot be stifled. The cry of justice cannot be silenced. The shrine that we now erect will therefore not only perpetuate his memory to the last syllable of time, but also attest to the invincibility of Philippine nationalism, to the deathlessness of the cause of liberty, and to the eternity of truth.

This generation of Filipinos and those yet to be born will derive inspiration from this Rizal shrine. They will learn that life does not consist in amassing wealth or material opulence, but rather in deeds of love and hope and faith. They will learn that life given away for love of country is life eternal; that life sacrificed for love of one's fellowmen and country is life triumphant; that life dedicated to the cause of freedom and justice is life immortal.

Let this shrine therefore be erected to attest to the whole world that the Filipino people will forever cherish the memory of their greatest national hero and martyr, Jose Rizal.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Speech of President Garcia at the installation of Baguio Rotary Officers at the Baguio Country Club,  
Saturday Evening, July 6, 1957**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH AT THE INSTALLATION OF BAGUIO ROTARY OFFICERS AT  
THE BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB, SATURDAY EVENING, JULY 6, 1957**

I WARMLY congratulate the newly-elected officers of the Baguio Rotary and Inner Wheel Clubs. Their selection to the position of leadership in one of the country's outstanding civic organizations is an honor which I know they fully deserve and will more than justify in efficient and whole-hearted service to their members, their organizations, and the country. More than felicitating them, I envy them: for them, the suspense and tenseness of a coming election is over,

In a way, however, I also sympathize with them and their members. Rotarians all over the world constitute community groups which I think, are the most alert, most intelligent, and most discriminating. Yet, they are often captive audiences. Once a speaker has gained access to their forums, Rotarians have no choice but listen, and unfortunately the privilege can be abused. A speaker who has an axe to grind may recite half truths and inaccurate figures—or no figures at all—to support pre-meditated and self-serving fulminations; and, being good mannered, Rotarians must sit through the flimsy performance and keep straight faces. I assure you that I shall not knowingly abuse your hospitality.

A few days ago, your Rotary brethren in Manila and, through them, the entire nation were treated to a discussion of our dollar and import controls, the national budget, public debt, money supply, rising prices and unemployment. These are matters of vital interest to all citizens and they should be discussed as freely and as widely as possible. But they are also such sensitive parts of our economy that they should only be discussed intelligently and dispassionately and, above all, truthfully. To twist and torture them for political effect is to sacrifice the national welfare to personal ambition.

Rotary was told that “the over-all purpose of the control system is to stabilize the country's exchange reserve position,” but that the “dollar reserves are approaching a dangerously low level.” Now, you know as well as I do that this statement reveals a misconception of the nature and scope of the objective of the dollar and import controls as well as a misrepresentation of the country's truthful dollar reserves position.

The conservation of our dollar reserves is indeed one of the purposes of the controls, but an equally important objective is the optimum utilization of our country's foreign exchange resources for our committed goals of economic development. Since 1953, we have managed our foreign exchange resources carefully and thoughtfully so as to give priority to the importation of capital goods without unduly reducing consumer goods, especially essential articles. Non-essential consumption goods do not contribute to economic development. It takes producers goods to equip our shops, our factories, our farms, our mines, and our public utilities and provide employment for our people. But indifferent, to if not entirely oblivious of, this objective of controls, the Liberal administration understandably dissipated no less than 52.1 per cent of the available dollars during the last semester of 1953 for the importation of consumer goods, a most typical performance. Our administration immediately and deliberately began to correct this anomaly, and by 1956 only 39.3 per cent of our import dollar had been allocated for consumer goods while 60.7 per cent had been channelled to capital goods for increased production. The latter continues to be undertaken, in accordance with a well-conceived and carefully-drawn up priorities plan, which is taken into consideration in the formulation of credit and exchange policies. By this shift in emphasis, the manufacturing plants in the country have increased from only 100 in 1953 to 138 in 1956 with, of course, a corresponding increase in much-needed industrial employment.

Rotary was told that the lifting of the controls should be accelerated—this, from the very people who had inaugurated them. The Liberal administration imposed the controls upon the country. They had been made necessary by the critical situation that had developed through their own economic and fiscal bungling, juggling, and mismanagement. It is no wonder, therefore, that they have had to continue in force up to the present time. The situation, although now greatly improved, was so critical and chaotic in the years 1949-1953, that, however much

our administration has accomplished towards correcting and redressing past errors and sins, the present conditions do not yet fully warrant the abolition of controls.

The fact, however, is that someone has become a victim of political amnesia. In 1950, the same voices that now clamor for the accelerated lifting of controls said in an official report to President Quirino:

More experience has to be built up in the administration of the controls and greater efforts should be exerted to widen their acceptance by the public as an *abiding feature of business life in the Philippines*.

The Magsaysay and the present administration never, however, believed that controls should be “an abiding feature of business life in this country.” For this reason, we have utilized the controls themselves, in conjunction with dollar means, to create the conditions that will enable us to forego them without harmful consequences to the economy. We have done this by giving priority in dollar allocations to such capital goods imports as can augment the national production and increase employment opportunities.

Although no figures whatsoever were offered, Rotary was also told that “our dollar reserves are approaching a dangerously low level.” Again, I am afraid there was here another instance of political amnesia.’ In 1950, the fiscal authorities of the Liberal administration did not consider \$130,600,000 as “dangerously low.” For of the \$260,000,000 which they fixed as a safe level, \$130,000,000 would consist of funds borrowed from abroad. Our position today is certainly sounder and better than this, for our international reserves are nearly \$200,000,000 of which only \$15,200,000 consists of borrowed foreign fund.

The national budget was not spared in the generalizations without supporting figures. It is hard to believe that anyone has the audacity and recklessness to discuss the national budget without offering a single figure. But this was the remarkable case; you were simply told that a “fantastically unbalanced budget has again been foisted upon the people.”

Yet the figures are available to the general public. According to the Auditor General’s report, while the Liberal administration incurred deficits from 1946 to 1953 ranging from ₱42,715,742.07 to ₱189,726,239.89, the Nacionalista administration showed surpluses every single year from 1954 to 1956, ranging from ₱1,876,591.40 to ₱10,597,956.98. The complete figures are the following:

*Liberal Deficits*

Fiscal Year 1946
Fiscal Year 1947
Fiscal Year 1948
Fiscal Year 1949
Fiscal Year 1950
Fiscal Year 1951
July 1-31, 1953

*Nacionalista Surpluses*

January to June 30, 1954
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Fiscal Year 1955
Fiscal Year 1956
TOTAL

Under the Liberal administration, only the operational expenditures of the Government appeared in the budget. The capital expenditures were not only excluded but were so poorly coordinated that the Government never at any time knew its actual and correct financial position. This is not my own opinion, the Bell Mission of 1950 said so. Its report stated: "The Secretary of Finance does not have the necessary information for him to determine currently just what is the real financial condition of the Philippine Government." It added that the Government's fiscal reports "are of no value to anyone except those interested in historical facts."

The Nacionalista budgets, however, include both the operating expenditures and economic development investments, thus presenting a clear and complete picture of the country's true financial situation. The current budget, for instance, carries ₱886,000,000 for the operational expenses of the Government, and ₱427,000,000 as capital investment in productive economic projects. The sum set aside for operational expenses is well within the Government's estimated income. However, the expenditures for capital investment, being for the further promotion of our long-range economic development plan, will legitimately be financed from borrowing and foreign assistance. The present administration has, in fact, a well-coordinated five-year fiscal and exchange budget. For the first time in the history of Philippine budget preparation, an inclusive financial plan has been formulated, which presents in clear terms the total expenditures of the Government, by program and purpose, along with detailed measure for their financing and for cushioning their impact on the economy.

By carelessly and matter-of-factly indulging, in deficit spending even for ordinary current operating expenditures of the government, the Liberal administration inevitably accumulated huge annual deficits. It was then that it also resorted to figure juggling. Not only did it contract budgetary loans aggregating in the huge sum. of ₱208,200,000, but it dipped its hands, illegally and surreptitiously, into the Government's fiduciary and trust funds, special funds, and sinking funds, dissipating in this manner the additional total sum of ₱152,339,715.32.

Following are the exact figures of the Liberal's huge loans and illegal fund dissipations:

Borrowed from U. S. Reconstruction Corp
Borrowed from U. S. Treasury
Borrowed from International Monetary Fund
TOTAL
Taken from the fiduciary and trust fund
Taken from special funds
Taken from sinking funds
TOTAL

Please note that the loans and pilferings were for current operating expenditures, not to accelerate economic development. Note also that the misuse of fiduciary, trust, special, and sinking funds were veritable acts of illegal misappropriation. Yet when the Liberal administration closed on December 31, 1953, there remained a net deficit of ₱175,531,543. But this was not all Government obligations totalling ₱205,705,628.32 were not booked and

remained unsettled for lack of funds. So confused and chaotic were the fiscal years 1949, 1950, and 1951 that even the salaries of school teachers could not be paid by the National Government, and Treasury Warrants issued by the National Treasury were being dishonored. Confidence in the Government had been lost.

But let a competent and disinterested authority on the situation then obtaining testify. The Bell Mission of 1950, after four years of the Liberal administration, had the following to say:

The mounting deficits of the government during these years of high national income and of inflationary pressure is indicative of the lack of a forceful policy on government finance. It indicates a failure on the part of the Government to recognize its responsibility to levy taxes and to provide an administrative enforcement staff that can collect taxes. It indicates a failure on the part of the public to appreciate the grave monetary and economic dangers that flow from break-down of orderly government finance ....More recently, as the deficit has grown and continued, the government has had difficulty in finding the means to meet its day-to-day obligations.

Surely, the spokesmen of the government administration that brought the country's financial, and monetary situation to such a sorry pass either have short memories or believe in the military strategy that offense is the best defense.

It should be admitted, however, that the Liberal administration, having brought the fiscal crises upon the Government and the country, tried to adopt improvements in the tax system, fiscal policies, and budget procedures to save itself. But not only were these measures ineffective and insufficient, but they were-also too little and too late. They were in fact adopted only because the prodding by the Bell Mission report began to hurt, and because efforts at such improvements were made a prerequisite for the continuance of United States aid. It was a humbled and shamed Liberal administration that roused itself at long last to do that which it should have done years before of its own will and volition. This was the way the Liberal administration managed the nation's affairs and preserved and safeguarded the independence and sovereignty of our people and nation.

And now, I want to call your attention to that supposed astronomical public debt for which again no figures were offered. When, on December 31, 1953, the Liberal administration was ended by an aroused electorate, the existing total public debt had reached what I believe can be truly described as astronomical, ₱1,065,975,000. Of this huge sum, no less than ₱696,938,000 had been spent for operational purposes, and only ₱369,037,000 for economic development efforts. Budgetary loans, represented at 65.4 per cent, whereas development loans only, 34.6 per cent.

I believe I am justified in saying with pride that during the Nacionalista administration and, in spite of all its heritage of bungled and juggled finances, no additional budgetary loan whatsoever has yet been incurred. On the contrary, it has been able to pay off ₱157,915,000 of the budgetary loans recklessly incurred by the Liberal administration and restore to the fiduciary and trust, special funds, and sinking funds, all but ₱8,000,000 of the ₱152,339,715.32 which the Liberals had illegally misappropriated. In addition, the Nacionalista administration redeemed ₱26,400,000 of the Manila Railroad bonds, held by British bondholders, on which the Liberal administration was not able to pay interest, much less redeem. The aggregate total of these sums, which the Nacionalista administration has had of necessity to divert from both essential government services and economic development activities in order to correct and cover up the reckless borrowings and pilferages of the Liberal administration—₱328,674,715.32—certainly deserves to be called huge, if not astronomical.

Aware of the huge public debt incurred by them, Liberal spokesmen talk of astronomical public debts. Not only have we incurred less indebtedness than the previous administration, and only for economic development purposes, but our public debt position at the present time is neither astronomical nor unsound. Our total indebtedness as of today is only 15 per cent of our Gross National Product. In contrast to our indebtedness, Turkey's is 24-percent of the Gross National Product; India's and Ceylon's, 35 percent; the United States, 65 per cent; and the United Kingdom, 150.2 percent.

Rotary was also told that "a rapidly-increasing money supply is flooding the country," as if an expanding money supply were bad for the economy. The truth, of course, is that an expanding economy like our requires a corresponding expansion in the money supply. Provided the growth of the money supply is commensurate with the

needs of the expanding economy, it is not a sign of an unhealthy economic condition. On the contrary, it is an indication of wholesome and healthy economic growth.

To support the intended ring of alarm in the charge that an increasing money supply is flooding the country, Rotary was also told that prices were rising. The rising prices, so-called, are not unnatural, and neither are they the product solely of the increasing money supply. The restrictions on the importation of non-essential goods, the increasing tariff duties collected on foreign goods, the systematic expansion of credit to stimulate production, and many other factors contribute to the inflationary tendencies. Nevertheless, no undue price fluctuations beyond what is tolerable for an expanding economy have been experienced since 1954. For instance, the consumer's price index for Manila, as of the first quarter of 1957 is only 103.1 as compared to the corresponding index in 1952, which was 104.4. The reason for this most reasonable price trend is that the expanding monetary sector of our economy can absorb larger increases in money supply than what Liberal spokesmen think feasible.

Lastly, Rotary was told that the country's unemployment of only 1,200,000 in 1953 was 2,500,000 at the end of 1956. These are two of the only four figures cited to support a plethora of generalities, and I hope I shall not be charged with lack of charity if I have to point out that they are completely wrong. The latest and most reliable statistics on our unemployment was published by the National Economic Council as a result of a Philippine Statistical Survey of Household conducted in May, 1956. The total unemployment as of that date was estimated at only 1,182,000. If Liberal administration authorities admit, as they seem to do, that they left the Nationalists administration a heritage of 1,200,000 unemployed in 1953, then it can be said that the Nacionalista administration has frozen the Liberal unemployment at a stationary position.

I do not mean by this that the present administration should not take care of all the unemployed. As a matter of fact, we are putting the greatest emphasis on those aspects of our economic development that can absorb maximum employment. And this reminds me that the Liberal spokesmen also gave "another set of figures—the second by only two pairs—which again turns out to be all wrong. It was claimed that "out of the some 700 new and necessary industries which we have today, no less, than 600 were already under way, many of them in the production state, before the close of 1953." This is not quite true. The records show that between 1946 and 1953, a period of eight years, only 297 concerns were granted tax exemption on the ground of being new and essential industries. From the beginning of 1954 to the end of 1956, a period of only three years under the present administration, 422 new concerns engaged in new and essential industrial activities were granted tax exemption. As the stimulation of such industries is one of the principal means of creating employment opportunities for our people, I have pointed out the discrepancy so that you may judge for yourselves how we are accelerating the opening of new jobs.

My friends, we have nothing to gain but everything to lose in misrepresenting our economic situation by erring either on the side of exaggeration or understatement. But the facts and figures are clear and are of public record. The present administration, by which I mean mainly that of President Magsaysay, has revised, updated, and expanded whatever economic plans and policies the outgoing Liberal administration had left, most of it in a state of confusion and chaos, and consolidated them into a new five-year economic plan. We abolished, for instance, the Import Control Office which had become the center of public corruption and scandal. We swerved the direction of imports to minimize non-essentials and emphasize capital goods needed to equip our industries, not only to increase productivity but also expand employment opportunities. We stabilized our financial position by settling much of the indebtedness, legal and illegal, incurred by the previous administration, and by keeping our dollar reserves at a safe and sound level. We have improved budgetary policies and procedures to the extent of consistently balancing the budget and annually showing surpluses. We have kept the public debt well within the borrowing capacity of the country and have resorted to borrowing, not to support extravagant operational expenses, but to use as investment capital in the various areas of our comprehensive and coordinated economic development program. As for the charge of "rank mismanagement in the fiscal, financial; and trade fields," I believe I can say with the fullest justification that our administration not only has redeemed and redressed almost all the damage and harm caused and committed by Liberal managerial ineptitude and inefficiency but we have also been able to advance our economic development program to a stage where the momentum we have built up constitutes a sufficient earnest of total and final success and triumph. The Liberal charge is not only unfounded and unproved, it is also gratuitous and ridiculous. It is, as I have said, a desperate attempt to convert defense into offense, a last-ditch try to make the red herring trick work. I am very sorry that you were imposed upon, but I am certain that you were not deceived by the

verbiage and you certainly must have deplored, as I do, the lack of figures and facts to support the glittering generalities.

This, then, is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth about the national economy. I have presented the situation to you, completely documented in depth. Every figure I have cited can be verified at source. I have in effect opened the books of the government for your careful scrutiny.

This administration has fully justified the decision of the electorate in 1953 when it ousted the Liberal administration and gave its mandate to the Nacionalista administration. The Liberal administration was a government of controls to conserve dollars only and thus aggravated the orgy of importation; the Nacionalista administration has continued controls, not only to stabilize our foreign exchange position but also to utilize as much of our dollar resources as possible to promote economic development, production, and employment. The Liberal government incurred astronomical public debts and, with this, also recklessly and illegally misappropriated the government's fiduciary and trust funds, special funds, and sinking funds; the Nacionalista administration not only has replaced the Liberal administration's misappropriations, except ₱8,000,000, but has incurred indebtedness within safe and logical limits, and all for economic development. The Liberal administration was inept and ineffectual, entirely lacking in managerial energy and competence, and pushed and prodded into action and decision like a lazy carabao by an American mission; the Nacionalista administration has managed the economic, fiscal, and monetary affairs of the nation under comprehensive and coordinated plans, with competence, energy, and imagination.

The return of the Liberal administration would be a return to chaos and confusion; the continuation of the Nacionalista party at the head of our government is an assurance of increasing and uninterrupted economic development and fiscal stability, national progress, mass contentment, and prosperity.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**Speech of President Garcia before the Manila Rotary Club delivered at 1 p.m. July 11, at the Manila Hotel**  
**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH BEFORE THE MANILA ROTARY CLUB**  
**DELIVERED AT 1 P.M. JULY 11, AT THE MANILA HOTEL**

MY FRIENDS OF THE MANILA ROTARY CLUB,  
LADIES OP THE INNER WHEEL CLUB,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

ONLY last week, I performed the pleasant assignment of inducting the officers of the Baguio Rotary Club. That itself pleased me very much, but the additional opportunity of rendering a similar service for the Manila Rotary Club and Inner Wheel Club gives me even greater pleasure. Not only am I delighted to be with you, as I was delighted to be with the Baguio Rotarians, but I also hope that after officiating at so many induction ceremonies, I shall myself, with your support, have the good luck to be inducted in the not too distant future.

I sincerely congratulate the new officers, not so much for the honor which has come to them, for I know that they are used to such honors, but more for the expression of faith and trust in their ability and leadership, and for the opportunity which is now theirs to serve their organizations and, through them, the people and the country.

I am indeed very grateful for the invitation you have extended to me to be with you today. Your luncheon meetings have become the most popular forum for the discussion of public issues. This is quite natural. Having in your membership men of broad and deep interest in public affairs, you are the logical pilot audience for the entire nation. This being the case, I appear before you today to discuss unfinished business as well as new business. It is a good policy, I think, to wind up any unfinished business first before starting new business.

The unfinished business I have in mind had its start with two addresses, one delivered before this Very Rotary Club right in this very place, and the other, before the Baguio Lions Club. Although at the Baguio Rotary Club, last week, I already delivered what I believe was a complete answer to the address delivered here, I have observed that only small portions have so far been printed in the papers, and some of these portions have been picked out of context and given different meanings. I therefore request your indulgence and your permission to begin my talk by touching upon topics which have already been discussed but which still need to be clarified.

By the use of official figures and facts, I should like to nail down once and for all the fallacies foisted upon the people concerning the budget, public indebtedness, American aid, and a few other matters.

Our administration was charged with foisting upon the people an unbalanced budget. The official figures show the exact opposite: The previous Liberal administration, from 1946 to 1953, foisted annual budgets upon the people with fantastic deficits. In 1946, the deficit was over ₱156 million; in 1947, over ₱189 million; in 1948, over ₱55 million, in 1949, over ₱89 million, in 1950, over ₱154 million; in 1951, over ₱42 million; in 1953, over ₱50 million.

In contrast to these deficits, the Nacionalista budgets from 1954 to 1956 have always shown surpluses. The surplus in 1954 was ₱10 million; in 1955, nearly ₱2 million; and in 1956, nearly ₱2 million.

It would seem that to keep our budget balanced, we should protect it against the proven Liberal deficit-spending policy and continue to entrust it and its established soundness to the present administration.

When it comes to loans, the past administration's record borders on recklessness. Not only did it borrow the huge amount of ₱208,200,000 to spend on ordinary operations of the government but it also illegally took more than ₱152 million from the government's fiduciary, trust, special, and sinking funds, making its total borrowing more than ₱360,200,000. In addition, government obligations totaling over ₱205 million were not recorded in the books and remained unsettled.

In contrast, our administration's record shows that we have been able to pay off ₱157,915,000 of the Liberal administration's budgetary loans and return all the pilfered funds from the fiduciary, trust, special, and sinking funds, except ₱8 million.

It is quite evident that if the Liberal Party is again allowed to get its hands into these funds, which are being accumulated to meet obligations maturing in the future, they will not be filtered partially—they will disappear completely.

It has also been charged that "economic aid from the United States has steadily decreased, primarily because of the failure of the Nacionalista policy-makers to properly and efficiently program such assistance." It is amazing that this statement has come from the highest official of the Liberal administration directly in charge of American aid. The records show that up to Fiscal Year 1956, the total American aid received by the Philippines from ECA and its predecessors was \$172,600,000. While, of this sum, \$72,600,000 was received during the Liberal administration, \$100,000,000 was received during the Nacionalista administration. Furthermore, for Fiscal Year 1958, the United States government has proposed to give the Philippines \$35 million, an amount greater than that previously given during any single year.

This administration, furthermore, recently concluded the Agricultural Commodities Agreement, under which the Philippines will acquire essential commodities for pesos amounting to \$10,350,000. The commodities thus acquired will supply the raw material requirements of our expanding industries without expenditure of Philippine foreign exchange. In addition 51 per cent of the peso proceeds are earmarked for loans to the Philippines for economic development.

On the basis of foreign exchange receipts figures, the American aid grants, assistance, and expenditures from 1951 to 1953, under the Liberal administration, totaled only ₱431 million, while from 1954 to 1956, under the Nacionalista administration, it totaled ₱422 million.

Lest I bore you with figures, essential though they are for the understanding of the matters under discussion, I should now like to get away from them. It was right in this hall, I believe that the Liberal party spokesman charged our administration with incompetence and lack of managerial ability, implying thereby that the Liberal administration had been matchless and perfect in its efficiency, effectiveness, leadership, and statesmanship. Rather than give my own opinion on this matter and thus be accused of prejudice and bias, I shall limit myself to quoting from the famous report of the Bell Mission in 1950 which came to the Philippines in the middle of the Liberal administration in a frantic attempt to shore it up and save it from total economic and political collapse.

This is what the report said of the Liberal administration:

"The mounting deficits of the government during these years of high national income and inflationary pressures is indicative of the lack of forceful policy on government finances . . . It indicates a failure on the part of the public to appreciate the grave monetary and economic dangers that flow from a breakdown of orderly government finances."

In another place, the Bell Report had this to say:

"The Liberal Party's fiscal administration has been ruinous and their fiscal reports are of no value to anyone except those interested in historical facts . . . In 1950, the Secretary of Finance did not have the necessary information from which to determine currently just what is the real financial condition of the Philippine government."

If the words of the Bell Mission are to be believed, not only for its neutrality but also for its unchallenged competence and good will to the Philippines, then it is the Liberal administration which must be branded inefficient, incompetent, and lacking in managerial and administrative ability.

With this, I close my discussion of unfinished business and begin the new business.

The Nacionalista administration, I am glad to be able to reveal to you, has perfected a Five-Year Economic and Social Development Program covering the period from 1957 to 1961 which, when implemented, will generate, directly and indirectly, a total of 1,500,000 new jobs, or an average of 300,000 annually. This will be the best answer to the charges that the employment situation is worsening. Up to a few months ago, we had only been able to contain unemployment; we were able to maintain the number of unemployed already existing under the Liberal administration at a more or less stationary figure. But this year we begin to aim at the target of full employment, and expect to hit it by 1961.

We believe that we can do this under the Five-Year Economic and Social Development Program which has been the result of exhaustive study and programming by, the National Economic Council. The program proposes, first, for the government itself, to undertake a program of public investment; and, second, for the government to establish and consistently implement coordinated public policies and encourage and enable private enterprise to perform its rightful role in the economic development of the country. As manufacturing grows in the number of establishments and in the scope of output, its capacity for employment will correspondingly increase. Our total labor force employed today in manufacturing industries is only 11 per cent as against from 21 per cent to 47 per cent in the more highly developed countries. Under our Five-Year Economic and Social Development Program, the aim is to acquire a similar balance in the proportion of employments in farms and factories.

Expanding employment is of course, only one of the objectives of the program. In its scope, it includes the intensification of production in all sectors of our economy. This goal, in turn, can only be achieved by making available reasonably easy credit and sufficient capital. And the latter, in turn, must be attracted by fair and reasonable conditions before it will venture into the channel of production and commerce.

To avoid further misinterpretation and misrepresentation, although its existence should be understood, the Nacionalista administration has had a comprehensive economic development program since 1954. This was revised and updated in 1955-1956, resulting in a new composition of the National Economic Council when disagreement on some aspects of the program made it necessary. The plan was later supplemented with a five-year fiscal plan and foreign exchange budget, together with a system of industrial priority. All these plans have now been consolidated and coordinated in the new five-year Economic and Social Development Program. However, in the nature of things, plans and programs cannot be ironclad; they must be altered according to the dictates of experience and the demand of the situation.

Under the previous plans and programs, the Nacionalista administration was able to record a substantial achievement and this is supported by the important statistics of the nation. From the end of 1953 to the end of the 1956, the gross national production, representing the total output of goods and services of the Philippine economy, went up from ₱8,002,000,000 to ₱9,415,000,000 or an increase of 17.7 per cent. Under the previous Liberal administration, 1951-1953, the increase was only 8.6 per cent. While the per capita income in our country at the close of the Liberal administration in 1953 was only ₱341, the corresponding figure in 1956 under the Nacionalista administration was ₱371. With an increase in per capita income of 9 per cent under the Nacionalista administration in 1953 to 1955, the Philippines, today, enjoys one of the highest living standards in Southeast Asia.

Production has also increased considerably. At the close of the Liberal administration in 1953, the combined index of the physical volume of production, the year 1952 being taken as 100 or normal year, was only 108 as against 141 under the Nacionalista administration in 1956. The index of agriculture was only 107 in 1953, whereas it was 135 in 1956; mining was only 102 in 1953 while it was 122 in 1956; and manufacturing was only 113 in 1953 but 160 in 1956. Surely, in spite of the determination of many to rock the boat, we are sailing on smoothly to the port of sufficiency and prosperity.

The same port is the goal of my having vetoed Senate Bill No. 167, more popularly known as the Dollar Retention Bill. When I disapproved it, I announced that I would create a body of competent persons to search more carefully for the best ways and means of providing incentives to producers. This study will inevitably take into its scope such other matters as dollar and import controls and other arrangements, permanent or temporary, which are related to these matters. The aim is to be fair to all concerned, impose no harm or hardship to any one, and get our economic development program on the straight road to our overall goal of improved individual incomes, rational prosperity,

and intensified progress. Before I close, I cannot resist the temptation of citing a statement which appears to be the key to the new Liberal party's campaign strategy. Manila Rotary was told, and I quote:

"The paramount objective of government is to promote the welfare of the great masses of the people. The masses of our own people live in poverty." This is irony at its worst. During its eight years in power, the Liberal administration, whenever it thought of the country and the people, had in mind only the inhabitants of the cities and towns. It took the Nationalists administration to discover the rural areas, the barrios, the common *tao*, the masses.

In his inaugural address on December 30, 1953, the late President Magsaysay declared: "Heretofore, social justice has raised fervent but frustrated hopes in the hearts of our less fortunate citizens . . . . My administration shall take positive and energetic measures to improve the living conditions of our fellows citizens in the barrios and neglected rural areas and of laborers in our urban and industrial centers."

This has been the key to the Nacionalista administration's program; without in any way neglecting the national welfare as a whole, it has looked with the sincerest and deepest concern upon the improvement of the health, the diet, the education, the environment, the implements, the technical knowledge, and the whole economic and social well being of the masses.

In one of his last messages to the Congress on the state of the nation, the late President Magsaysay declared, and I quote: "We believe that what is good for the common man is good for the whole country. Every policy of our administration has, therefore, been directed to his welfare. We have anchored our national destiny to the common man."

Under President Magsaysay's energetic and dynamic leadership, the vast program of rural reconstruction is already going apace. As his humble successor, I have pledged myself to its all-out continuance and, if possible, its further expansion, not only as a matter of loyalty to my successor but also as a matter of deep conviction and personal feeling, having myself come from the ranks of the masses,

My friends, ladies and gentlemen, the year 1957 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Nacionalista Party. It is the party that has had the greatest experience in government, that has in its ranks the men and women who have had the most comprehensive and most extensive service to our people and our country. When for eight years, from 1946 to 1953, a new party without experience in government took over the administration of the nation, the result was disappointing, if not disastrous.

The problems of our Republic are partly the common problems of the post-war world and partly the natural problems of a young nation. We cannot afford a second period of fumbling and bungling in the attempt to seek their solutions. It is common sense, it is logical, it is enlightened self-interest on the part of every Filipino, and is a measure of self-preservation for the nation as a whole to continue the present administration so that it may carry out the vast program of economic development it has already started auspiciously to its logical and successful conclusion.

*Source:* University of the Philippines College of Law Library



**Speech of President Garcia before the Harvard-Yale Alumni Association at dinner given in his honor at the Club Filipino, Manga Avenue, Quezon City, at 8 p.m., July 21 PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH BEFORE THE HARVARD-YALE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AT DINNER GIVEN IN HIS HONOR AT THE CLUB FILIPINO, MANGA AVENUE, QUEZON CITY, AT 8 P.M., JULY 21**

MEMBERS OF THE HARVARD-YALE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I AM proud and grateful to be accorded the honor of addressing you and felicitating you on this memorable occasion of the reunion of the alumni of two of the greatest American Universities, the Harvard and Yale. These two highest institutions of learning represent the best that there are in the world of culture and education. So, there can be no gainsaying of the fact that among the highly educated Filipinos, those of you who graduated from these universities represent the best type of educated manhood in this country. It is, therefore, no wonder that the gates of opportunity in public service, as well as in business, industry, and finance are thrown wide open to the graduates of Harvard and Yale. It is, therefore, only natural that the alumni of these two institutions are leaders, in their respective fields of enterprise. And that is the reason why to be a graduate of these two American universities is to derive just pride and distinction.

But it is good to remember that education, while on one hand confers privileges and opportunities for the holder thereof, on the other, it imposes certain duties and obligations which must be discharged to the satisfaction of the state and nation. After all, the life of a nation is what the people make of it. Congressional enactments and Presidential actions are all important factors in the making of a democratic nation is the action or participation of the people themselves. There is where the highly educated men like the alumni of Yale and Harvard play a vital role in their respective fields of enterprise.

The Philippines as usual, like many progressive countries in the world, is confronted with many problems, the most important of which at present are the economic problems and the problem of setting our house in order. We are actually engaged in the thankless task of general house cleaning in the government. It must be obvious to you that while this work is difficult and thorny, it has got to be done. The institution and authority of government and even the vitality of constitutions cannot long endure unless they rest on sound and solid moral foundations. People may talk of military might and economic abundance; rulers may found their illusions of grandeur upon such things, but 7,000 years of history in all times and climes have clearly demonstrated that the indestructible foundations of any nation, whether it is a republic, an empire, or a monarchy, are the laws of morality based on the eternal ten commandments.

Let me, therefore, avail myself of this magnificent opportunity to call upon the alumni of Yale and Harvard to harness their learning, their influence, and even their wealth to this crusade of house cleaning in the government, and help restore it to the old moral moorings. The biblical injunction: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His justice, and all these things shall be added unto you" has been borne out by centuries of practical application as an eternal verity. And in our aspirations for national security, economic stability, peace and happiness, this principle is an infallible guide. Let us adopt it in order to attain these aspirations, the realization of which is the dream of the administration, of the opposition, and of every citizen of this country.

*Source:* University of the Philippines College of Law Library

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Marcos on the opening ceremony of the First Asian Foreign Service course, July 22, 1957**

**ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT MARCOS ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE FIRST ASIAN FOREIGN SERVICE COURSE, LUNA HALL, DEPT. OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, JULY 22, 1957.**

THE Republic of the Philippines, in sponsoring this First Asian Foreign Service Course under the joint auspices of the Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, is, in my opinion, projecting a new trend in international relations, particularly in this part of the world.

Diplomacy observes traditional gestures which, in sum, amount to formal and informal encounters of mind and vision in the foreign service of interacting societies. Diplomacy is an affair between peoples and nations, with diplomats and ministers as the instrument of contact, and this has until recent times become the common ground for mutual understanding among peoples.

With the advent of the United Nations, it was hoped that the affairs of men and nations would reach a new level of accord. Indeed, it has in many respects, but the reality of world politics has seen fit to shape diplomacy in a new way—new in the sense that influence and power have now tended to be concentrated in specific areas, exercised by specific groups. Leadership, therefore, has gravitated toward certain key points, converged on certain foci of interests.

Let me not burden the theme now current in the councils of the world—the theme of bi-polarity. But let me project the prospect of multi-polarity which, as a result of the knowledge and experience gained by nations in the creation and use of atomic power, is already a reality in our time.

I shall only suggest here that in the light of the actuality of a multi-polarized world order, the importance of regional order, the establishment and preservation of regional harmony, will exercise the vital role in the management of world peace. Were we to rely on the traditional practices of diplomacy, we would leave the creation of this harmony in all probability at the mercy of diplomats.

Again, a lesson we have learned in the past is that policy is only the synthesis of experience and knowledge. Thus a policy which seeks regional harmony will be the synthesis of knowledge and experience on a national scale, spread over to accommodate regional interests.

Diverse as the cultural traditions are of the policy and experiences of our peoples in our part of the world, we nevertheless, share a common dream of harmony; and better than leave the expression of this vision in the hands of policy-makers per se, we have now come to a point where men, in the fullness of their own knowledge and experience, must share in the responsibility of making and expressing national policy. It stands to reason that henceforth we can look forward to a better world.

Those who will share in the training and experience offered by this First Asian Foreign Service Course, representing as they do nations and cultures of our region, aspiring as they all will aspire, for their share in the making of peace, are the same who will sit behind diplomats' desks and evolve foreign policies for their respective countries. In so doing, they will draw from the inspiration and practical requirements of the interests to which their nations and cultures are committed. But in so expressing these requirements in the area of foreign service, they shall know that they share a common knowledge and experience with their counterparts of the region. Thus within the framework of a nation's basic foreign policy, within the guidelines provided by national communities, within the boundaries of action set by the United Nations as an organization and as a community of powers devoted to world security—within these bounds, we shall witness them at work, sharing skills and insights, indeed speaking a common language

to each other and to the world. It is on this basis, that a new definition of peace and security and harmony may be possible in our world today.

*Source:* **National Library**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Carlos P. Garcia accepting his nomination as President of the Philippines, July 29, 1957**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
Accepting his nomination as President at the Nacionalista Party Convention**

[Delivered on July 29, 1957]

MR. CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT AND MRS. OSMEÑA, DELEGATES TO THE CONVENTION, FELLOW  
NACIONALISTAS, FRIENDS, COUNTRYMEN:

YOU have honored me with your decision to make me our party's candidate for President. With abiding gratitude and deep humility, I accept the nomination. I accept your summons, fully confident of your unstinted support. Whole-heartedly, I embrace the tremendous responsibility of leading our party to victory.

For this expression of confidence and trust, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. The nomination for President, being the highest honor within the gift of a political party, I well realize the great-heartedness of your action. The inspiring unity you have shown behind the nomination is in itself a command to me to win the election of our entire ticket, for our party, and for our people.

But it is more than the nomination that I now accept. It is much more than the duty and responsibility to bring victory to our party to which I pledge my humble self. I also accept the great responsibility of bringing to a happy and successful completion the task left unfinished by our great leader, my beloved predecessor, President Ramon Magsaysay.

Under his energetic leadership, we have made an auspicious start on all the most important sectors of our national task. The bold steps he took for the prosperity, advancement, and happiness of the masses of our people have begun to attain fruition. We will carry on and finish the task he has started, not only as a sincere tribute to his memory, but also as a duty to ourselves, our people, and our Republic.

The Nacionalista Party had worked with unrelenting determination for four decades to bring about our independence. It is unfortunate, however, that our Republic was launched in the confusion that followed the war, and worse still by an inept and corrupt administration, which gave it a poor start. Fortunately in 1954, by popular mandate we began to give it a new and better direction. We have just started to replace expediency with long-range planning, ineptness with efficiency, extravagance with thrift, dishonesty with integrity. I call upon every Filipino of good will, regardless of party, to give us the opportunity to continue this task and to cooperate with us in bringing it to its fullest fruition.

On this, the fiftieth anniversary of our great Party, permit me to pay sincere and deserved tribute to the memories of our great founders who have since joined eternity—Don Alberto Barreto, Dr. Rafael Palma, Manuel L. Quezon, and the many others who have gone with them. And to the leaders of them all in the founding of the Nacionalista Party, the Honorable Sergio Osmeña, who triumphantly piloted the Nacionalista Party from 1907 to 1923, let us give thanks both for his most fruitful work for the party and the country and his continuing counsel and guidance to our party and to our nation.

Former President Sergio Osmeña, drawing from the political experience and wisdom of half a century, pointed out the other day that only unity among our members has been responsible for the great victories and the constructive

administrations of our party. To his respected voice I humbly add my own. Unity is our key to victory in November. Harmony and solidarity must continue to be our Arc of victory. I appeal to unite where we have been divided. From this day on, we who are here and our party members and friends everywhere shall continue a unified and indivisible force unswervingly moving forward to the goal of victory.

And as, after this convention we begin our march to victory, let us keep in our minds the ultimate objects of our unity and dedication—the husband and wife and children in every home, in every barrio, in every town, and in every city in this our blessed Motherland—our 22 million people whose material, spiritual, and intellectual welfare we are sworn to promote.

There are those who believe that in politics the end justifies the means; that in order to achieve victory no means, legal or illegal, moral or immoral, may be spared. As for me I would rather be right than successful. I would rather keep faith with justice than with power. I take it that we are determined to confine our political action within the bounds of morality. Popular control is the essence of democracy. But to win popular control by disregarding the virtues of civilization is to betray democracy. We can be true to democracy only if the people live in a regime of justice and liberty and security. We are for a victory won through an honest campaign and a clean election because we are for an administration that is honest and moral and dedicated to the common national welfare.

My fellow Nacionalistas and friends: You have made me the standard bearer of the Nacionalista Party. You have chosen me the leader of our Party. By virtue of this mandate, and invoking the guidance of the Divine Providence and the inspiration of our Nacionalista heroes and leaders, my first battle cry is: Forward to Malacañang; forward to Congress; and forward to the highest seat of power—the heart of the Filipino People!

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia launching the Nationwide Fund Campaign for the 10th World Jamboree of Boy Scouts in ceremony held at Malacañang, Thursday Afternoon, July 31**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH LAUNCHING THE NATIONWIDE FUND CAMPAIGN FOR THE 10TH WORLD JAMBOREE OF BOY SCOUTS IN CEREMONY HELD AT MALACAÑANG, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 31**

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

WHEN I issued last year the invitation to hold the 10th World Jamboree in our country, I was sharply aware of the tremendous responsibility I was asking for in the name of our Republic and of Philippine Scouting. But I did not hesitate to issue it. I strongly felt then, as I still do now, that it was a step, wise and provident, one which is definitely called for in the light of our national interest and of the vaster concern of mankind in general.

All of us, I believe, deserve to know what a World Jamboree is and why I decided to involve ourselves seriously in it.

A World Jamboree is an international gathering of Scouts held once every four years. Far from being merely a form of boyish merry-making, telescoped into global proportions, it is a profoundly meaningful affair aimed as it is at furthering universal friendship and good will among men through the Scouting way. By massing up in one locality as many of the youths of the world as possible, and letting them live, sing, play, talk, eat, and sleep together in an atmosphere of the widest freedom and tolerance, Scouting authorities expect to contribute substantially in hastening the dawn of lasting peace on earth among men of good will. In a nutshell, a Jamboree is a re-arrangement of the world along the pattern of the One-World idea, where people belonging to varying races, religions, cultures, and ideologies live together in brotherly harmony.

In assuming, therefore, the main task of insuring the success of the 10th World Jamboree, we are merely harnessing in the best tradition of our race a measure of our national energy to the uses of universal peace and brotherhood. It is a sublime cause we have decided to serve and, by all means, we must neither falter nor fail in this challenging endeavor.

But there are still other reasons which should further enthuse us into working together for a most successful 10th World Jamboree.

The affair, scheduled at the Makiling National Park in Los Baños, Laguna, on July 17-26, 1959, will be the first of its kind to be held in the East. Eight of the previous nine Jamborees were held in Europe and one in Canada. When in the whole vastness of Asia and Africa, therefore, our Republic and Philippine Scouting were singled out to play host to the first Jamboree in the Orient, we cannot but feel honored as a people. For one thing, it is definitely a tribute to Philippine Scouting whose activities and achievements have enhanced our national prestige and won it the respect and admiration of the total Scouting World. For another, it is a telling recognition of the maturity and competence of our people and the stability of our Republic. Mass international gatherings, like a Jamboree, have always been held in the more mature and stable countries.

In a way, the capacity of Asian and African peoples to meet the challenge of a noble cause will be on trial at the Makiling National Park on July 17-26, 1959. It is our great fortune, therefore, as a people to have been given the opportunity of demonstrating to the rest of the world the sense of responsibility and drive toward a great endeavor of Asia and Africa. Whether or not we shall survive the trial will depend on the measure of cooperation of each of us, Filipinos and residents in the Philippines alike, will contribute toward the success of the Jamboree.

In the narrower interest of projecting the Philippines into the consciousness of some 12,000 Jamboree participants from at least 68 nations, we may also find encouragement in chipping in toward a successful Jamboree. We should also take note of the Jamboree's impact in broadening the outlook, the intellectual horizon, of our own boys who will participate in the Jamboree and those of us—young and old alike—who may have the chance to experience it one way or another. Finally, it is needless to point out the immense benefits which the influx of some 12,000 consumers in our country can bring upon our business community.

For all these reasons, fellow countrymen, I most urgently call upon you to extend every measure of help at your disposal toward the most successful preparation for the 10th World Jamboree. To be held here at my own invitation, I have personally and officially endorsed it. I have already approved a legislation appropriating half a million pesos as the contribution of the Republic to the Jamboree fund. I am making my own modest personal contribution today. I plead with you, my countrymen, particularly those of you who are in a position to give substantial assistance, to help fill in the difference between the estimated Jamboree expenses and the funds now available.

I look forward to a most successful 10th World Jamboree, one which shall add to our national prestige, bolster the ramparts of world peace and brotherhood, and insure to every participant a most pleasant and memorable experience.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines College of Law Library**

**Message of President Garcia on the death of Former Speaker Eugenio Perez, August 4, 1957**  
**PRESIDENT**  
**GARCIA'S MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE ON THE DEATH**  
**OF FORMER SPEAKER EUGENIO PEREZ, AUGUST 4, 1957**

I join the Filipino people in mourning the death, of former Speaker Eugenio Perez. Fondly called "The Manong" he was" an outstanding leader of his party. In my long years of association with him, I found him both a worthy opponent in politics and a sincere friend. Mrs. Garcia and I extend our heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Perez and her family and pray to the Almighty for his eternal repose.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library



**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia at the opening of the Four-Day Sixth National Convention of the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines Wednesday Morning (August 13) at the U.S.T. Gymnasium**

**THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AT THE OPENING OF THE FOUR-DAY SIXTH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES WEDNESDAY MORNING (AUGUST 13) AT THE U.S.T. GYMNASIUM**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I AM profoundly grateful to the organizers of this convention for giving me this opportunity to meet with representatives of Catholic schools throughout the Philippines. I have always considered education one of the most important activities of man. In the hands of educators lies the future not only of individuals but of nations and of the entire world. Educators are the true architects of civilization. Upon their labor of faith and love depend not only the temporal but also the eternal destinies of men.

I say labor of love and faith, for the work of an educator is inspired not by the hope of material gain but, in the final analysis, by a disinterested love of truth. It is therefore a labor which calls for great faith in the Author of all Truth, and for a great love of one's fellowmen who were made to know, and live by, the truth.

As educators, yours is therefore a vocation which requires what can only be described as a missionary zeal; indeed, every teacher worth the name is in some sense an apostle, a missionary of truth. A religious missionary, such as those who were responsible for bringing Christianity to our country and for founding the first schools in our land, is nothing but a teacher of truths which he considers to be of supreme importance to all men, and for which he personally has forsaken home and family and all worldly possessions. I believe it is true to say that every man and woman who has sincerely embraced teaching as a vocation, and not merely as a means of livelihood, pursues his profession in the same spirit as that of a religious missionary. You know better than anyone else what you have had to give up when you chose to teach rather than to enter one of the more lucrative professions.

But, as in the story of Mary and Martha in the Gospel, you have chosen the better part. I am only the President, but you are the maker of Presidents. You mold the citizens from whose rank the leaders of our country are taken; you train the citizens without whom the leaders would have no followers. In this sense, you hold the destiny of our country in your hands.

I believe it was Daniel Webster who said: "If we work upon marble, it will perish. If we work upon brass, time will efface it. If we rear temples, they will crumble to dust. But if we work upon men's immortal mind, if we imbue them with high principles, with the just fear of God and love of their fellowmen, we engrave on those tablets something which no time can efface, and which will brighten and brighten to all eternity." And as St. Chrysostom has said, "What greater work is there than training the mind and forming the habits of the young?"

I am glad to note that you have chosen as the theme of your convention, "Catholic Education and the Philippine Constitution." I believe the choice is very apt, for our Constitution is your guarantee that the private schools which you represent have a right to exist and be recognized by our government.

On the other hand, the type of education which your schools impart, in which spiritual and moral value and the training of character are given prime importance, is a real contribution to the formation of citizens who are bound to respect not only the Constitution but all the laws of our land which are intended to implement its mandates.

Our Constitution guarantees "the free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship" (Art. III, Sec. 1, par. 7), which includes the freedom to teach any religious doctrine, provided such doctrine does not militate against

the well-being of the state. It further recognizes that the rearing of youth for civic efficiency is the natural right and duty of parents” (Art. II, Sec. 4).

The right to worship freely and the right of parents in the education of their children, my friends, are denied in totalitarian countries; but not in this country as long as our Constitution remains in force. The existence of private schools and private educational associations such as yours, is our proof that education in this country is not regimented. With regard to private schools, the government’s role is merely supervisory and regulatory (Constitution, Art. XIV, Sec. 5); but there is no idea here of regimentation or absolute control.

Our Constitution furthermore guarantees freedom of worship and so religious schools will always have a place in our educational system where they can make their contribution to the building of an upright, competent, and intelligent citizenry.

You will find in our Constitution, therefore, the guaranties whereby private citizens may set up their own schools if they wish, provided they meet the minimum requirements laid down by the government; and whereby the right to teach religion in those schools is respected and protected against undue intervention.

But if the Constitution protects the private religious schools which you represent, I believe that the religious and moral training which you impart to your students, coupled of course with the academic and vocational preparation which you give them, implements an important mandate of that same Constitution.

Article IX, Section 5, of the Constitution states: “All schools shall aim to develop moral character, personal discipline, civic conscience, and vocational efficiency, and to teach the duties of citizenship.”

The names of the famous Catholic schools in this country which have achieved eminence along these lines, are so well-known that I need not enumerate them here. This venerable University in which we are gathered today, for instance, has given our country some of its most outstanding leaders in various fields.

I should like to dwell a little, however, on this important aspect of education; namely, the development of moral character, personal discipline, civic conscience, and the teaching of the duties of citizenship. We tend to take these qualities for granted, but the difficulties in which our country finds itself today underscore the pressing need for developing them in our younger generation.

You are aware that our country is passing through one of the most trying periods in its history. We are beset by economic problem, for instance. These problems are not beyond solution but they can be solved only if our people have the moral courage, the personal discipline, and the civic conscience sufficiently alive to our country’s needs, to meet the challenge that confronts our nation. These are qualities which our Constitution enjoins all our schools to develop in our youth, and our present experience shows that the survival of our Republic depends in in large measure on the extent to which our people possess them.

For example, some months ago, when our dollar reserves were dangerously low, I felt it my duty to call upon our people to practice austerity, which I described to be not merely an economic policy but a way of life. This was the only way we could conserve dollars which were badly needed by our new industries. It was an appeal to the patriotism of our people to forego unnecessary imports in order that our new industries which we have been trying to build up so painfully through the years, and which our country needs if it is ever to gain economic stability, would not collapse.

This is an example of an economic problem vitally affecting our country, whose solution requires of our people strong moral character and personal discipline. For these are involved in austerity. Austerity is nothing more than self-denial for the sake of a greater good, the welfare of the nation. Self-denial requires strength of character and personal discipline.

I am now instituting a determined campaign against graft and corruption in the government. Here is another problem whose root cause is the lack of moral training, a lack of respect for law, a lack of moral and civic conscience, in those responsible for venalities in the government. Because of them the country loses millions of pesos which could be better spent for the needs of the people. Because of them, much time and effort has to be spent in probes and investigations, because it is still our duty to protect the innocent. These people constitute a drain and a drag to the smooth functioning of our government, and I am determined to weed them out.

Again, I have announced that one of the policies of this administration is to intensify production. This is the only way our country can achieve a measure of self-sufficiency consonant with our status as an independent nation. This is an economic problem, but again for its solution we must draw on the moral reserves of our people. For increased production means improved methods, it is true; but it also means that we must work harder. And hard work calls for discipline; it calls for character, for the moral strength to resist the natural tendency towards ease and comfort.

More than once I have spoken of the need for developing science in this country. We are living in an age of unparalleled progress in the field of science. Those who seek to build civilization and those who seek to destroy it are so far advanced in the field of scientific research that mankind is terrified with the fury of the secrets unlocked by the scientists. It has come to a point when the struggle for supremacy in scientific research between the peoples of the free world and those who seek to destroy our freedom, could mean a struggle for survival. We cannot afford to close our eyes to this race in the science field; we must keep abreast of the scientific progress in other countries and contribute our share to the preservation of freedom. But more important than this, we need the fruits of scientific research in order to make the maximum use of our own natural resources that we may raise our people's standard of living.

But again, science requires dedication; it requires infinite patience and great discipline, moral as well as intellectual, in those who would pursue it.

Finally, in the great struggle between atheistic communism and the freedom-loving peoples of the world, our country, as I have not hesitated to tell the press in the United States, is definitely committed to the side of freedom. I have been criticized by some quarters here as "talking big" for saying this. But gentlemen, of one thing I am certain, and that is, that the vast majority of our people are opposed to communism as a matter of principle.

And the reason is not hard to seek. We are fundamentally a religious people. We can have no share in an ideology that denies the existence of God and the natural rights of man.

To think clearly on these issues, to be able to take a stand where others prefer to affect neutrality, we need firm principles and a positive faith. The religious and moral principles which you inculcate in your students, provide them with a strong anchor in the midst of the present struggle for the hearts and minds of men.

Your schools are therefore making a distinct contribution to the building of our nation by their emphasis on moral training, on the formation of character, on the spiritual realities upon which, after all, the whole structure of our civilization is founded.

I congratulate you for the growth of your association which is making great strides in the various fields of educational endeavor. Allow me before closing to reiterate our pressing need for cultivating vocational efficiency and in developing scientific research, without sacrificing the cultivation of character and morality without which a nation may be a nation of highly technical and mechanized masses but not truly educated and cultured. These aspects of education should be given more emphasis and geared to the national program of moral and spiritual uplift.

Let me now close with the parting words of the late President Magsaysay, in one of the last speeches he delivered at the University of San Carlos before the fatal plane crash that took him away from us: "Ladies and gentlemen, teachers and students—keep your faith, and your faith will keep you."

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**



**Speech of President Garcia at the opening of the 1957 Anti-TB Fund Drive, at Malacañang Social Hall, on August 14, 1957**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH AT THE OPENING OF THE 1957 ANTI-TB FUND DRIVE, AT MALACAÑANG SOCIAL HALL, ON AUGUST 14, 1957**

BEHIND me, hanging on the wall, you see the banner of the red double-barred cross, symbol of the united world efforts against a disease that has oppressed mankind since time immemorial—tuberculosis.

Far back in history this mighty foe of man existed, called by many names: phtisis, scrofula, consumption, the White Plague. Even before history was recorded, it plagued the world, leaving its telltale marks in the skeletons of Neolithic man and Egyptian mummies. Today in our country, it continues to defy the efforts of our Government and people to control it, still maiming and killing 23,000 of our countrymen every year, draining our manpower and constituting a stumbling block towards our economic and social progress. We are making great strides in our fight, but the disease remains a stubborn enemy.

We have, indeed, made great progress through the joint efforts of our government, the Philippine Tuberculosis Society, and our people after half a century of struggle. We cannot and we must not falter in our determination to emancipate our countrymen from the misery and suffering that Tuberculosis wrought in our land.

As we usher in the 1957 Anti-TB National Fund and Educational Campaign with today's ceremonies, it is only fitting that we give proper recognition to the able work being done by the Philippine Tuberculosis Society in promoting its worthy objectives.

The officials and members of this organization have year in and year out, dedicated themselves to the fight against tuberculosis so that the toll of this dreaded disease among our people shall be reduced. They have evolved a system of services that effectively helps in keeping tuberculosis under control in this land. To them goes my heartfelt congratulations for their dedicated pursuit of their mission.

An encouraging fact to remember is that TB, although highly communicable, is easily cured if detected in its early stages. If the people can be widely informed of this characteristic of the disease and urged to undergo a regular medical checkup, the incidence of TB can be greatly reduced. The Philippine Tuberculosis Society will do well in further intensifying its activities towards this direction.

It is now my privilege and honor to declare open the 1957 Anti-TB National Fund and Educational Campaign. I now call upon every citizen and resident of the Philippines to rally to this double-barred cross banner and intensify their united crusade against the White Plague, giving the enemy no quarters until every man, woman, and child need not shudder with dread from the spectre of tuberculosis; until every home need not be engulfed with the fearful gloom which this vicious disease casts over the land.

I take pleasure in presenting my modest contribution to the General Chairman of this drive, my good friend, Don Manolo Elizalde, who generously gives of his time and energy for this worthy cause.

*Source:* University of the Philippines College of Law Library

**Speech of President Garcia before the graduates of the Harvard Advanced Management Institute, at the St. Louis School Auditorium, Baguio City, Saturday Afternoon, August 17, 1957**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH BEFORE THE GRADUATES OF THE HARVARD ADVANCED MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE, AT THE ST. LOUIS SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, BAGUIO CITY, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 17, 1957**

I SHARE your feeling of personal satisfaction and achievement for your successful completion of the Harvard advanced Management Course. To your professors from Harvard who came a long way to make this course available to their Filipino friends, I express the sincere appreciation of a grateful people. The managerial knowledge and skills you have thus acquired will be of incalculable value in the advancement of your respective private businesses. However, I hope you will not begrudge your newly-acquired skills by using them exclusively for your private gain. As enlightened leaders of private enterprise, your interest is not merely good profit in business. It is more. You also have a share of responsibility in the national effort to step up the pace of our national development in order to bring, in larger measures, the blessings of peace, prosperity, and happiness to our people.

We are today forging our economic destiny. We are transforming our economic environment to the benefit of the common man. We are effecting a rapid transition of our economy from its trade-oriented beginnings to a balanced development in both its agricultural and industrial phases, taking full advantage of our rich store of human and natural resources in the national interest. The problem becomes the more pressing because what, under other circumstances, we might indifferently allow a generation to achieve, we are determined to do in five years or less.

Therefore, it is of the Administration's cardinal mission of accelerating our national development and the precise action measures and tools of implementation it has taken to achieve this paramount purpose that I wish to speak today.

**A VIABLE ECONOMY—OUR SUPREME GOAL**

A clear understanding of the economy is necessary in order to plan the most advantageous direction of future economic growth. Failure to comprehend the structural weaknesses of the economy is in evidence in many public discussions lately.

Our economy is a heritage of the colonial era. We are still largely dependent on the production and *exportation* of a few specialized agricultural products and on the *importation* not only, of capital goods but of many essential consumer items as well. This situation subjects our economy to the vagaries of international trade and to severe repercussions of economic crises abroad, conditions over which we have no control.

The export-import pattern of our economy is beset with the chronic problems of low production, unemployment of our abundant natural and manpower resources, and an unfavorable balance-of-payments position. These are undeniably the most urgent problems of our country today.

There have been differences of opinion as to the optimum course of action to solve these economic problems. One political headquarters has taken the position that the development of the agricultural sector of the economy represents the most advantageous approach to the problem. He believes that industrialization could come about only after we have developed to the fullest extent our agricultural and natural resources.

On the other hand, another political camp calls this a plan for development of a "pastoral economy" and advocates instead full industrialization based on nationalism as the theme of his development program. According to him, real industrialization which would include heavy industries would result in progress in all directions, including the agricultural sector.

Our Administration chooses neither an agricultural nor an industrialized society alone. For under our Economic and Social Development Program we are implementing a balanced agricultural development and industrialization

program as the best means of achieving a strong and viable economy. We believe that in the immediate years ahead we need to bring about a fundamental change in our economic structure from a trade-oriented type of economy to a balanced agro-industrial society where both agricultural and industrial advancement complement and reinforce each other.

Considering that our country is still basically agricultural, as evidenced by the very nature of our resources, the dependence of nearly three-fourths of our population on this industry and the predominance of farm products in our export items, we can not afford to neglect the development of the agricultural sector in every sound and reasonable manner. Our goal in this direction is the attainment of basic self-sufficiency in the production of food crops. Increased agricultural output has been the motivating factor and objective of our intensified rural development program.

However, agricultural development alone can not be depended upon to produce the desirable effects on income, employment and balance of payments. Most of our primary agricultural export products have a limited and/or inelastic demand abroad. While we will strive to expand our export trade by diversifying both products and markets, we must also face the reality that world market conditions and international economic trends are not too favorable.

Thus, we need to balance our agricultural development with an even more intensified industrialization program. Agriculture can supply industries with raw materials, and with the increased income that the farmers would have, industrial products would then be assured of a local market. In this complementary progress, we will be able to strengthen our otherwise lopsided economy by having a greater number of people engaged in productive enterprises, by broadening the opportunities for employment and by reducing our dependence on foreign markets.

#### THE ADMINISTRATION'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

In the achievement of national development objectives, our effort has been guided by the economic plan adopted at the start of our Administration and announced by the late President Magsaysay on March 20, 1954. As had been emphasized by him, this Plan is not inflexible but is to be updated periodically on the basis of past performance, changing conditions, and prospects of further advancement.

In fact, on January 3, 1957, the National Economic Council submitted its recommendations for updating this 1954 economic development program. These recommendations included a system of industrial priorities to govern the allocation of foreign exchange, the administration of the Government's fiscal operations, and the extension of credit to agriculture and industry. We have adopted this industrial priority system as a guide in the implementation of projects which will make the maximum contribution to production, employment, and income.

To be sure we have had many economic plans and programs of national development since Liberation. But seldom were these plans translated into practical financial terms and backed by well-defined fiscal policies to assure their faithful and effective execution.

One such economic plan is the so-called Total Economic Mobilization Program which the standard bearer of the Liberal Party is trying to resurrect from its ignominious demise and hold out as a panacea for all our economic ills. It was framed without an eye to the realities of the present economic environment, giving primary emphasis on goals per se but without any long-range and integrated fiscal and investment program implementing the public sector to back it up. As such it has become a mere sanguine expression of high aspirations, and but people not only spurned it but repudiated its advocates in the 1953 national elections.

#### FIVE-YEAR FISCAL PLAN

Now, for the first time, we have joined our broad plans for social and economic growth with specific measures required for their financial and administrative realization. I refer to the Five-Year Fiscal Plan embodied in the President's Budget Message this year. The Plan portrays the strategy of how the Government intends to fulfill its responsibilities in the great national effort of vanquishing unemployment, poverty, disease, and illiteracy from our land by applying the absolute maximum of our financial resources to public investments for economic development

purposes; by improving our educational, health, and social standards within the limits of available government revenues, giving particular emphasis to those services which directly enhance the productive skills and capacities of our people; by maintaining the strength of our armed forces and internal security facilities; and by financing the total government sector by a sound and judicious balance between taxation and public borrowings. It imparts to the national economy an optimistic and buoyant trend while at the same time keeping monetary expansion within bounds and thus avoiding inflationary tendencies by prudent fiscal, monetary, and credit policies. It seeks to accelerate the process of industrialization while improving and broadening our agricultural base. And, finally, it gives to private enterprise every encouragement and opportunity to play an increasingly significant role in the development of our country.

Realization of the basic goal of national development, however, involves tremendous amounts of public investments. Public funds from all sources will not be adequate to finance all the desirable projects designed to achieve balanced development within a relatively short period of time. We have, therefore, carefully appraised these needs, prudently planned the financial measures needed for their implementation, and taken every means to assure that available funds are earmarked only for the most productive and urgent projects which will bring the greatest social and economic benefits at the lowest cost.

Knowing that the manner in which the Government budgets its expenditures and raises the funds to finance them has profound effects on national income, prices, production, and employment, we prepared the Five-Year Fiscal Plan guided by fiscal policies and principles which are bold and forward-looking but, at the same time, prudent and discriminating. We are not attracted by transitory schemes with Utopian appeals for prosperity without sacrifice; nor are we deterred by those who advocate a policy of excessive caution and the maintenance of the status quo. For the welfare of the common man, our paramount concern demands that we move forward vigorously but surely.

Our Five-Year Fiscal Plan is founded on a rising national income level and aims to achieve a sizeable increase in both national and individual income during the five years from FY-1957 to FY-1961. It is designed to create a national-income growth of 30 per cent and a per capita income growth of 17 per cent (adjusted for population rise) by 1961 in comparison with the base year 1956. This means that we can double our national income in seventeen years. We have deliberately employed fiscal policy as an instrument of economic development by allocating the highest possible proportion of available financial resources to this supreme purpose. I am gratified to tell you that we have assigned steadily increasing amounts to economic advancement—from ₱151.0 million only in FY-1953, the last year of the Liberal Party Administration, to ₱267.7 million in FY-1954, ₱330.9 million in FY-1955, ₱467.0 million in FY-1956, ₱506.6 million in FY-1957, ₱549.7 million in FY-1958, and rising to ₱617.4 million in FY-1961.

Previous to our Administration, domestic investment from the public sector had been meager. As a consequence, the growth of private domestic investment has also been retarded. Recognizing the critical need for greater domestic investment to accelerate economic development, our Administration has been allocating large sums of public funds in the form of capital outlays. Three types of programs are accorded priority emphasis in the use of these capital investments: (1) directly productive undertakings like steel, power, coal, cement, and other basic industries which are at present within the Government's responsibility; (2) lean programs for the private sector; and (3) overhead facilities and services which are of importance as a foundation to the productive processes, including transportation and communications.

These amounts of public investments, increasing from ₱329.4 million in FY-1956 to ₱420.1 million in FY-1961, will induce private initiative to participate more fully in the task of national development. This contribution to capital formation, together with the participation of the private sector, is of significant magnitude that will stimulate measurable increases in national income.

Inadequacy in the total supply of available credit is the central financing problem in the private sector. This is because the rate of voluntary savings is low, and our present credit facilities are quite rigid in their requirements, tending to favor the needs of real estate, export-import trade, and speculative activities. The Government has therefore assumed the responsibility of supporting private credit with public funds in order to provide a larger base for credit expansion.



Accordingly, the Five-Year Fiscal Plan has allocated funds to the private banking institutions, on the basis of a time-deposit-loan arrangement similar to that so successfully pioneered by the Industrial Development Center. Such funds will be loaned through the banks on reasonable terms primarily for medium and long-term credits to enable private organizations fully to carry on their part in the economic development of the country.

## PROGRAMS FOR NATIONAL PROGRESS

This being an election year, our critics have suddenly become impatient. They demand now an immediate and complete solution of all our chronic economic ills. While distorting facts to suit their self fish interests and to mislead our people into believing that our Administration has not done a thing to solve these problems, they themselves know for sure that economic problems will always be present. Even in a highly developed economy like the United States, possessing great facilities and technical know-how, economic problems persist.

Regardless of what the critics and the dreamers say, we must be under no illusions about the hard road to national development. No palliative can ease the path to national progress. It is a long and narrow road beset by the clarion call of cheap-money advocates, exchange-rate jugglers, and dark-doom prophets exuding cynicism and fear.

The full effects of our program can not be felt all at once in the short period of three and a half years. Even so, our Administration has already laid firm foundations for the development of an integrated steel industry for the Philippines; for increased power and fertilizer output essential to industrial and agricultural expansion; for the development of commerce, industry, and agriculture; for rural community development and the implementation of land-for-the-landless policy, as well as improved land tenure; for the improvement and expansion of agricultural credit and marketing facilities; for the revitalization of afforestation and reforestation measures; for the establishment of an integrated and efficient transportation and communication network; for the strengthening and improvement of our education, health, and other social facilities and services; for the promotion and development of scientific, engineering, and technological research and invention; for the improvement of our revenue and debt administration; and for the promotion of industrial peace. I am gratified to tell you that we have already made significant gains along all these fronts. But this achievement will not deter us from continuing our dedicated efforts to move farther ahead until our task is done.

One protagonist in the present political arena is strongly advocating the establishment of steel and heavy industries. We have already initiated and are effectively implementing a program for an integrated steel industry. The NASSCO steel project covers a broad front embracing the smelting of iron ore into pig iron, conversion into steel ingots, rolling and finishing into billets, slabs, plates, sheets medium structural sections, bars, pipes, and other miscellaneous steel products. The completed plan envisages a total production of about 200,000 metric tons of pig iron annually which will be converted into steel manufactures and castings.

Of the initial capital investment of ₱71.3 million required for the NASSCO project, ₱50 million is already provided under Republic Act 1396. Of this amount ₱12 million was released during FY-1957, ₱16.7 million to be released during the current fiscal year, and ₱20.6 million in FY-1959. These sums for financing an integrated steel industry in this country will insure a steady supply of vital steel products for domestic use, save large amounts of foreign exchange, develop and revitalize our coal and iron ore resources, and expand business and employment opportunities.

Over the next five years we have programmed the development of the best known and feasible major power projects in the country. These cover areas where there exists a large and important power market critically dependent on fuel sources abroad. With the completion of these major and multipurpose projects, we can start to integrate an effective system of interconnected major and auxiliary power plants and distribution systems.

Funds earmarked to finance our power, fertilizer, and distribution projects range from ₱19.7 million in FY-1957 to ₱30 million in the current fiscal year, and a total of ₱85 million scheduled for the fiscal years 1959 to 1961. With the completion of Ambuklao, Loboc, Binga, and other minor projects currently scheduled or planned, we shall have increased our power capacities by 237,150 kilowatts, from the present 88,000 kilowatts to 325,150 kilowatts, or by

269.5 per cent. Our fertilizer capacities, furthermore, will be increased by 260 per cent, or from 50,000 metric tons to 180,000 metric tons a year.

I have authorized the release of additional amounts to finance the expansion of irrigation facilities. In the past fiscal year we spent P19 million for this purpose. For the current fiscal year we have scheduled ₱21.2 million and for fiscal years 1959 to 1961, ₱32, million each year. With these sums, we shall be able to extend the hectareage under irrigation to about five times that irrigated by the systems constructed from 1907 to 1953.

We are still busily engaged in re-energizing an economy which was permitted by the Liberal Party administration to drift into a state of deterioration during the last decade. We are suffering today the cumulative effects of the dissipation by the infamous Import Control Commission of an exceptionally large volume of foreign exchange resources which could have been used to increase our productive facilities, the lack of a positive and progressive tax policy, resulting in chronic budgetary deficits, and the diversion of public borrowings and foreign loans to current operating expenses, instead of to productive capital outlays.

In spite of this heritage of fiscal and economic mismanagement by a corrupt and incompetent Liberal Party administration, we can take encouragement from the gains we have made during, the past three years.

A striking feature of the current economic scene has been our success in maintaining a measure of monetary stability in the face of large-scale national development financing, through the implementation and coordination of fiscal, monetary, credit, and exchange control policies.

The inflationary effects of an increasing money supply occasioned by a rising level of government expenditures for economic development and expansion of bank credit were safely contained within the economy. General levels of prices, while exhibiting an expansionary trend in the past few months, have not reached alarming proportions characteristic of run-away inflation. The limit of 4 or 5 per cent annual increase in prices of domestically produced goods, as stipulated in the FY-1957 Budget Message, has not been exceeded in the past year.

In fact, the price levels during the years of our administration are very much lower than those prevailing during the years 1949 to 1953. Prices of locally-produced commodities for home consumption in June, 1957 increased by 2.9 per cent over the previous year's level and by 4.9 per cent since 1955, and yet were lower by 9.7 per cent than the 1949 level and by 1.8 per cent than 1953. Consumer prices increased by only 2.2 per cent between 1955 and June, 1957.

Over the years we have made significant progress in expanding national production. The index of total physical volume of commodities produced in agriculture, mining, and manufacturing was 142 (1952-100) in 1956, showing an increase of 9.2 per cent over the previous year, 31.5 per cent over 1953, and 97.2 per cent over 1949.

Reflecting these gains in overall production, our gross national product and national income have been increasing steadily year by year. The gross national product was estimated at 9 billion 415 million pesos in 1956, or 8.4 per cent over the previous year and 14.4 per cent higher than the highest figure recorded during the Liberal Party administration. We are confident that this healthy economic trend will be even more pronounced in the years ahead under the investment program envisioned in our Five-Year Fiscal Plan.

By 1956, our economy has been able already to provide additional employment for new entrants into our labor force. Between 1948 and 1956, while the labor force increased by 2,081, 200, the number employed also increased by almost the same figure. The labor force participation increased from 56.5 per cent in 1954 to 65.1 percent in 1956 of the total population ten years old and over, or an increase of 8.6 per cent. The level of employment rose from 43.9 per cent to 57.0 per cent of the total population ten years old and over, or an increase of 13.1 per cent over that of 1954. In spite of a rapidly growing population which increases about 1.9 per cent annually, we have succeeded in slowing down the growth of unemployment.

## CONCLUSION

For any political party to aspire to lead our people, it is not enough that it has grandiose intentions. It must also have the vision and it must know the way. I say to you that only the Nacionalista Party fulfills both.

We have a comprehensive, coordinated, and integrated program of government about which I have already spoken. These are found in two public documents—our Economic and Social Development Program and our Five-Year Fiscal Plan—which are open to public scrutiny. I challenge the opposition parties to present to our people equal or better plans

These plans and programs are the crystallization of the thinking of the best minds of our nation. They have been forged in the crucible of public debate as befits our democracy. They are not the empty words of self-seeking politicians nor the abstract pronouncements of suddenly awakened messiahs. These programs are under actual implementation. Through them the country has made significant progress.

Upon these we state our claim for continuance in office.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines College of Law Library**

**Speech of President Garcia delivered in Quezon City, August 19, 1957**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH DELIVERED IN QUEZON CITY, MONDAY  
AFTERNOON, AUGUST 19, 1957**

Mga Piling Panauhin

At mga Mahal na Kababayan:

LUBOS akong nagagalak na makadaup palad kayong lahat ngayon sa pag diriwang ng pagsilang ng dakilang bayani ng ating lahi, ang ama ng ating kalayaan, at ang unang Pangulo ng ating Bayan, Si Manuel L. Quezon. Kaya't, bilang Pangulo ng ating Bayan ngayon, hinihiling ko na dakilain natin ang kaniyang ala-ala at simulain upang maging matatag at masagana ang ating kalayaan!

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

On this the 79th anniversary of the late President Quezon, the most brilliant leader in our triumphant fight for independence and now crowned by the Muse of Immortality as the "Father of the Philippine Republic", the whole nation offers to his memory the most beautiful flowers of a thousand fragrance culled from the very heart of the people's Garden of Love and Gratitude. We celebrate this day, the 19th of August, to recall with patriotic pride his deeds, his valor, his devotion to, and sacrifice for, our beloved native land, his triumphs and his heartaches, his indomitable will, his inspired eloquence and all the high qualities of manhood that elevated the character of the nation. We also celebrate this day to drink from the fountain of his heroic and inspiring life, new courage and greater dedication to the eternal ideals of freedom, justice, democracy, and human dignity for which he fought with all that he had and all that he was.

My friends, I find this occasion most opportune to reiterate with greater ardor a tribute I paid to his memory before the Congress of the Philippines. I said then and I say it now that:

"Manuel Quezon, the statesman, with the possible exception of Rizal, was the greatest born to the Malayan race."

As President of the Philippines, it is hard to tell which to admire more—whether the rapidity of his conception or the speed of his action. The undebated truth is that he had a power of execution in a high degree that rarely combines with the philosophical circumspection of a deep thinker that he also was. The thinker and the doer in him were so ideally combined as to produce the greatest statesman that lived radiantly and led dynamically. Indeed, if each of the statesmanly achievements of Quezon were inscribed on a leaf, we would need all the wilderness of glorious Bataan. If each of the statesmanly thoughts and ideas of Quezon were inscribed on a rock, we would require the mountain ranges of the Himalayas to contain them all.

As a member-founder of the Nacionalista Party, he was a partisan that fought for his party as no one else did. But when the interests of his party and those of his country came to the parting of the ways, he never hesitated a moment to terminate his party loyalty. In other words, his politics ended where his statesmanship began. He was a patriot rather than partisan. He would be true to his country oftener than loyal to his party. As statesman, Manuel Quezon went deepest in thought, farthest in vision and quickest in action, and so, as a leader, he was reliable as the attraction of gravitation.

But the glories that he attained as a parliamentarian, the fame and renown that he acquired as a consummate politician, the enduring laurels that he won as a statesman, all glimmer into insignificance before the radiance of his greatness as a man. He was generous as autumn, warmhearted as summer, and splendid as a perfect day in the flowering frenzy of May. He understood human nature and, therefore, loved man. His loyalty and attachment to his friends have long become a legend here and abroad. His gallantry and chivalry towards women have endeared him to the womanhood of our land and captivated and ravished the imagination of the youth and flower of the nation. That was why youth stood by him always.

His fights to improve the lot of the lowly and the poor constitute glowing chapters in that thrilling saga of his struggle for the realization of social justice in the Philippines. It was his cherished dream to send the sunbeams of contentment and happiness into every hut and heart. He had a subtle understanding of human weakness and human frailties and so by means of his executive clemencies he tempered justice with love. He dipped his insight into the mechanics of the human heart and the dynamics of the human soul, so that he could see the heroic and the noble though covered by the rags of poverty; and find the beast and the villain though concealed under the drapery of purple and ermine. No father was more loving and beloved. No husband was more devoted, at the same time more colorful, than he; no friend more steadfast, more generous, and more reliable. No man was braver, truer, or nobler.

I could have ended right here. But I would like to add that in our pre-occupation for charting the course of our Ship of State amidst the Sargasso Sea of international relationship, we can turn to Quezon for light and fortitude. The great leader even from the silence of death still speaks. So I deem it timely to retrieve from the dust of -oblivion some records of the thinking of that great Filipino patriot on the relationship which our Republic should establish and maintain with the other countries of the world.

As you will remember, the great Quezon invariably spoke out frankly, fearlessly, and unequivocally his views on vital national issues. He did so on Philippine foreign policy. For instance, in his last visit to Japan shortly before the last world war, with that Quezonian brevity and lucidity for which he was famous, he said in a banquet given by the highest officials of Japan in his honor, the following:

“It is our desire to be on good and friendly terms with Japan and with all the countries of the world but our special aim would be to maintain very close association with the United States even after the termination of the political ties between our two countries.”

In the same visit to Japan in a conference with the Japanese foreign minister he reiterated “that the Philippines owe much to the United States and that we are bound to give her special considerations if she should want them, so long as her wishes do not conflict with our national interests.” In 1939, when the second world war broke out in Europe, President Quezon assured President Roosevelt that “if the United States would be involved in the conflict, the Filipino people would fight side by side with her to the bitter end.”

When we recall that Quezon as the outstanding leader of militant nationalism in his time coined the immortal fighting slogan, “I prefer to have a Philippine government run like hell by Filipinos to a government run like heaven by Americans”; when we remember one of his first speeches as a young Filipino Resident Commissioner in Washington where he said “We will unhesitatingly prefer to be poor but free than be rich but subjects;” when we recall his gallant and bitter fight against the late Governor Wood and the anti-independist forces way back in 1925; when we recall how he hated and scorned obscurantism, subservience, sycophancy, and the bartering of honor, dignity, and conviction for a “mess of pottage”, it would appear crystal-clear to us that his pronouncements on foreign policy must have been the crystalized conviction reached after deep, conscientious, and luminous deliberation on the line of foreign policy.

Furthermore, the fact that he reiterated this fundamental concept of foreign policy in many state papers and speeches; the fact that his successors to the presidency, Osmeña and Roxas, who were also olive-crowned leaders in our epic fight for freedom, have adopted this very concept as a cornerstone in the structure of Philippine foreign policy, convince us beyond peradventure of doubt that wisdom and experience and vision indicate that this would conduct the Philippine nation along the path to national security, economic stability, and perpetuation here of the democratic institutions and the democratic way of life. That this is the way to the attainment of peace under a regime of liberty, justice, and democracy.

To me, it is important to know the right historical perspective through which this central foreign policy concept should be viewed. Quezon as we all know was the greatest Filipino exponent of the eternal basic principle of the equality of men and nations—the principle which constitutes the brightest gem in that Immortal Charter, the American Declaration of Independence. With all the fire of his passionate soul he demanded for the Filipinos the same God-given inalienable right of all peoples “to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness”, another transcendental principle in the American Declaration of Independence, which constitutes the essence of democracy. Quezon was

the Philippines' greatest Lincolnist in believing that only a government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall never perish from the earth.

So, when President Quezon advocated maintaining close ties of friendship with America, he definitely meant that such close friendship and partnership must be on the basis of equality and mutual respect of each other's sovereignty and national dignity. He could not have stood for less. He meant partnership with American the unrelenting struggle for the triumph of the principles of freedom and democracy and peace, all of which principles were written in astral fire in the American Declaration of Independence which he considered the political bible of the modern world.

In his second inaugural address delivered at the great bastion of Corregidor at the start of the Pacific War, Quezon said:

"No matter what sufferings and sacrifices this war may impose upon us, we shall stand by America with undaunted spirit, for we know that upon the outcome of this war depend the happiness, liberty, and security not only of this generation but of the generation yet unborn. This is the most momentous period of our history. As we face the grim realities of war, let us rededicate ourselves to the great principles of freedom and democracy for which our forefathers fought and died. The present war is being fought for these same principles."

On this celebration of Quezon Day, therefore, we do not merely do it by exploding firecrackers, singing the national anthem, and playing of brass bands. We can better do it by trying to emulate his life of mighty love and by rededicating ourselves to the great principles of liberty, justice, and democracy and economic stability for which he fought and because of which he advocated close relations with America, the recognized champion of these same principles and now the leader of the world in the crusade for peace—not peace resting on power and might of any one country or group of countries, but peace built upon the indestructible foundations of love, liberty, and justice for all nations and peoples.

Lubos akong nagpapasalamat sa inyong lahat at nawa'y pagpalain tayo ng Dios.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**Speech of President Garcia before the Manila Lions Club, Monday Night, August 19, 1957, at the Manila Hotel**  
**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH BEFORE THE MANILA LIONS CLUB,**  
**MONDAY NIGHT, AUGUST 19, 1957, AT THE MANILA HOTEL**

FELLOW LIONS,  
MY FRIENDS:

WE ARE honoring tonight the memory of the late President Manuel L. Quezon—a man beloved by the masses of our people because he loved them truly and well.

The memory of Quezon permeates us all. It is in the very air of freedom which we breathe, Quezon having been fondly called the chief architect of our independence. We shall remember Quezon for the many beneficial things he bequeathed to us. But tonight I would like to reminisce on Quezon as the father of our Social Justice program.

I shall not delineate in detail how Quezon dedicated his life, from his early manhood to his dying day, to the service of his people.

I shall not dramatize before you his ardent love of freedom for his country—how at the age of 20 he joined the revolutionary forces that fought the American Occupation troops, and later, carried on the fight for Philippine independence through a peaceful but determined and valiant struggle.

Neither shall I recall the many illuminating incidents in his life indicating his indomitable spirit and brilliant mind which, with the hand of a master, he utilized—as a provincial fiscal, as a governor as a majority floor leader of the First Philippine Assembly, as a resident commissioner to the United States, as President of the Philippine Senate, and as President of the Philippine Commonwealth—to the service of his country and people.

Many are the tales and legends woven about the many-faceted greatness of Quezon as a man and as a leader. Imbued with a burning passion for freedom and love for his fellowmen, and endowed with a great personality and adroit statesmanship, he welded together his people and led them in their long and arduous struggle for independence.

So convincingly did he prove his qualities for leadership, that his people acknowledged him as their political emancipator and idolized him in song, canvas, and marble.

It is no wonder that General Douglas MacArthur said of Quezon: “Of all men, of all time, none more truly merited the appellation of patriot-statesman.”

Quezon is commonly known as the architect of Philippine independence. It is indeed ironic, if not tragic, that Quezon died when the dawn of our day of freedom, for which he had labored all his life, was just breaking, and that he did not live to witness the birth of our young Republic. But he must be happy to know that he had not labored and died in vain.

Viewed in the light of the present circumstances, we who are heir to this, our political independence, look up gratefully to Quezon, not only as the architect of our independence but as the far-seeing statesman who wanted to prepare his people for their greater responsibilities as free men. Quezon lived during an era when the preoccupation of the government and the governed was to secure immediate, complete, and absolute independence at any cost. Be that as it may, he also took steps that his people would be worthy of their freedom, when he launched his program of social justice.

Now that we are politically free, our main concern is how to make our people worthy of their independence. For, what value is it to be free in name but still economically shackled: to be a peon to economic czars, to be a man without a home and a piece of land, to be without education, to be subject to the ravages of diseases, or to be without a job?

My friends, I wish to point out on this occasion that a grateful government and people have kept faith with Quezon by picking up from where he left off. Inspired by Quezon's social justice program, our late beloved President Magsaysay carried the torch and started in earnest to bring Quezon's dreams to reality. Magsaysay blueprinted the long range program of social amelioration starting at the grass roots level.

Thus, the Government has taken measures to improve the living conditions of our people, especially the farmers in the once forsaken barrios and the once neglected laborers in our mushrooming factories.

The Government has constructed more irrigation systems, highways and barrio roads, waterworks and artesian wells, and pre-fabricated schoolhouses. It has purchased and expropriated big landed estates, subdivided and sold them to the tenants at cost. It has opened up new resettlement areas for landless farmers and constructed low-cost housing projects for the poor and the middle class. It has organized farmers' cooperatives to help farmers financially in their production and in the storage and distribution of their products, free at last from the clutches of usurious manipulators. It has built more hospitals and organized rural health units in almost all the barrios in order to safeguard the people's health. It has passed labor laws that give additional benefits to our working class.

The Government has seen to it that the oppressed and the downtrodden are given justice as guaranteed by the Constitution and thus the people's faith in their government has been restored and strengthened. It is doing its best to promote further the well-being of our people through increased production in our farms and in our new industries.

My friends, all these are being done by our administration. All these are being implemented and accomplished as scheduled in our Five-Year Fiscal Plan. All these have sprung from the seed of social justice which was first sown by Quezon in his lifetime. All these are being done so that every man, woman, and child in our country will have his just share of social justice and will become better prepared citizens of an independent Republic.

We can build no statelier monument to Quezon than when, with the cooperation of all citizens, we can see the fruits of his labors enjoyed by all—when every free citizen enjoys the blessings of social justice.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines College of Law Library**



**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia before the Philippine Trade Unions Council [Filipino]**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
Before the Philippine Trade Unions Council**

[Delivered at the National Press Club Building, August 19, 1957]

MGA  
LUPONG  
MGA

PILING  
PAMUNUAN  
KASAPI

PANAUHIN,  
AT  
NG

*Philippine Trade Unions Council:*

ITO ang ikalawang pagharap ko sa Bayang mangagawa, at gaya ng una ay sinikap ko na sa pagkakataong ito ay gamitin kong muli and Wikang Pangbansa sa nais ko na inyong madama na kayong lahat ay karugtong ng aking hininga at malapit sa aking puso.

Binabati ko kayong lahat sa pagdaraos nitong ika-apat na taon ng pagtitipong ito at inaasahan ko na magiging matagumpay itong inyong kombensyon.

Sa araw ding ito, ang buong Bansang Pilipino ay ipinagdiriwang and pagsilang ng dakilang lider ng ating lahi, ang ama ng ating kalayaan at ang unang Pangulo ng ating Bayan, si Manuel L. Quezon. Kaya't sa araw na ito, ako na inyong Pangulo, ay sinasa ala-ala ko ang lahat ng panahon ng aking panunungkulan upang lumaganap ang simulain ng “justicia social” ni Quezon sa kapakanan at kaligayahan ng lahat ng mangagawa sa ating Bayan.

Noong nakaraang taon ay naging panauhin ninyo ang dakilang lider ng ating Bayan, and idolo ng mga mahihirap at kapus-palad, si Pangulong Magsaysay. Ngayon, akong inyong Pangulo, ay nanunumpa na ipagpapatuloy ko ang lahat ng simulain ni Ramon Magsaysay lalong-lalo na ang kanyang pagkupkop sa Bayang Mangagawa—hanggang mapasa inyo ang tunay na ligaya na maaring idulot ng pama-halaang ito.

Itong mga araw na ito, na malapit na ang elecion, lahat ng mga kandidato ay humaharap sa inyo at ipinapangako pati ang langit at mga bituin makuha lamang ang inyong boto. May kandidato na pusakal na kapitalista ngunit napakalakas ng loob na magsabi na mahal daw niya ang mangagawa. Mayroon namang kandidato na abogado ng malaking kapitalista ngunit ngayon ay maka-mangagawa.

Ako ay nananalig sa inyong talino; kilala ninyo ang tunay ninyong kaibigan at kilala din ninyo ang inyong kaaway.

Ako ay hindi kailangang mangako. Ang aking paglilingkod sa ating pamahalaan sa loob ng 30 taon ay isang bukas na aklat na maaaring suriin ng Bayan. Nais ko na ako ay inyong hatulan, hindi sa pamamagitan ng aking maaaring sabihin kung hindi sa aking mga nagawa sa kapakanan ninyong lahat. Bilang inyong Pangulo, pinagtibay ko ang tatlong Batas ng ating Kongreso—mga Batas sa kapakanan ninyong lahat, at iyan ay ang *Social Security Act*, *Apprenticeship System Act*, at *40 Hours a Week Act*.

You may ask, my friends, what are the guiding principles of my administration with respect to labor. In a nutshell, I shall enumerate these principles:

1. Our Constitution provides “That the State should afford protection to labor.” My administration shall provide all the necessary protection to labor within the bounds of reason.
2. My administration shall encourage and defend the healthy growth of legitimate and democratic trade unionism in our country, and as a corollary to this, I shall not only discourage but I shall bust the formation and existence of company unions in the Philippines.
3. Capital and labor are not antagonistic forces in our social order, but each should regard the other as a friendly partner in the economic growth of our nation; and to this end, my administration shall be dedicated to the creation of a healthy atmosphere for a sound labor-management relation.
4. Labor should be given a chance, to participate actively in the conduct of the affairs of the government, and for this reason, I shall continue with my avowed policy of appointing representatives of labor to membership in the different boards of our government corporations and other agencies and instrumentalities of our government.
5. The betterment of the lot of labor shall not only mean protection to the employed, but more so to the sector of our population who belong to the unemployed, and to this end, I will gear all the available resources under our command, to immediately implement a bold economic program designed to wipe out unemployment within the next four years.
6. My administration shall adhere to the well-accepted principle of voluntary conciliation. In case of a labor dispute, I will not countenance the intervention of the Department of Labor nor the Court of Industrial Relations, until the parties to the dispute shall have explored all possible avenues for a peaceful and voluntary conciliation.
7. In line with the fundamental principle “that justice delayed is justice denied,” it is the policy of my administration to accelerate the early termination of labor cases in our courts and the speedy adjudication of claims of laborers for workmen’s compensation, employer’s liability, overtime wages, etc., in the Department of Labor.
8. My administration shall afford all the necessary facilities of our government for the training of responsible labor leaders, but certainly, my administration shall not countenance the exploitation of the ranks and file of labor by demagogues and racketeers.
9. The Armed Forces and police agencies will be called upon only to preserve order in a strike area, but my administration shall not and cannot tolerate the use of these forces to break up a legitimate strike or peaceful picketing.
10. The migration of Filipino laborers overseas shall receive the sympathetic support of my administration, but the same shall be subject to the condition that they will be afforded the same benefit and privileges given by the host nation to their own workingmen.

Ang mga nabangit kong simulain ay ipagaganap ko habang ako ay Pangulo ng ating Bayan sa malinis kong paniniwala na iyan ang magbibigay ng katahimikan at kaligayahan sa inyong buhay.

Lubhang napakarami ng mga suliraning hinaharap natin ngayon. So loob ng apat na buwan na ako ay umuugit ng ating Pamahalaan, punong-puno ang aking kamay sa mga suliranin ng ating Bayan. Nguni’t ito ay hindi ipinanghihina ng aking kalooban, bagkus malakas ang aking loob na tala-kayin ang mga suliraning iyan, sapagka’t nalalaman ko na ang Dakilang Maykapal ay pinapatnubayan ako, at kayong mga kababayan ko ay nasa likuran ko. Sapat na ito na sabihin ko sa inyo ngayon, na tayo ay hindi maaaring mabigo at tayo ay tiyak na magtatagumpay.

Bago ako magtapos, pahintulutan ninyo akong batiin ko at pasalamatang kayong lahat.

Tulungan ninyo ako at ako ay tutulong sa inyo.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1957). President Garcia's speech before the Philippine Trade Unions Council, Monday noon, August 19, 1957, at the National Press Club Building. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 53(16), 5168-5171.

**Speech of President Garcia on the 61st anniversary of the Battle of Pinaglabanan, delivered Thursday afternoon August 29, 1957, in San Juan, Rizal**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH ON THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF PINAGLABANAN, DELIVERED THURSDAY AFTERNOON AUGUST 29, 1957, IN SAN JUAN, RIZAL**

MY COUNTRYMEN:

It is a more of deep pride for me to join the peo-people of San Juan in honoring the heroes of Pinaglabanan

San Juan is the cradle of Philippine revolutionary history. Your sons took the vanguard of our people's struggle for freedom. The first actual combat between the Spanish troops and the Filipino revolutionary forces took place in your town. And again against the American forces, the first shot was fired here.

Then, as if to follow a pattern of heroism and bravery, a beloved son of San Juan—Lt. Jose M. Artiaga—died a hero's death at Yaltong, Korea, during the darkest hours of the Korean war.

To me, the magnificence of Lt. Artiaga's death was not by accident of war. The valor and heroism he displayed did not spring from the armed might of the organization to which he belonged.

Lt. Artiaga lived and died like a true son of San Juan—worthy of its proud history. His life and his death were part of the Spirit that triggered the "Battle of Pinaglabanan" sixty-one years ago today.

The history of the Philippines has been enriched by the magnificent deeds of people like the brave men of Pinaglabanan. In our quest for freedom, our people spared nothing to make their aspirations a reality. It is for this reason that Filipinos are always found wherever a battle for freedom is being fought.

Today, as we pause to honor the heroes of Pinaglabanan, I would like, for a moment, to draw your attention to thousands of other heroes who have made this country what it is today.

These heroes never carried guns, nor took to a bloody battlefield, though history records that they too were ready to pick up a bolo if need be in defense of their country.

I refer to the farmers, the laborers, the teachers, the social workers, and the thousands of other civil servants who have all dedicated their lives to the service of their people. ,

The farmers who work in scanty clothes in all kinds of weather to prod the reluctant earth to produce the goods that make you and I live; the teachers who labor in unsung anonymity in some remote barrios to bring the light of knowledge to our rural population; the social workers who penetrate our hinterlands under the most difficult condition to bring succor and comfort to the millions of our less fortunate brothers; the lowly clerks and other civil servants who are content to be relegated to some dark corners in an office to do the routine but necessary work that allows this government to function—these and others are just as much entitled to our attention and gratitude. Without them no country can survive; without them no government can exist.

A nation is a composite of all kinds of heroes. It thrives on the sacrifice, the industry, and the dedication of all the people who have a stake in it. This is not a nation of soldiers alone; nor of teachers alone; nor yet, of farmers alone. It is a nation of many peoples sharing the same ideals.

As we gather to commemorate the famous Battle of Pinaglabanan, it is meet that we ponder the virtues that fired these brave people of San Juan to glorious deeds of heroism. These simple people had no interests to protect; no fortunes to guard;—all they had was a consuming desire to see their country free. To attain their aspirations, these heroes of San Juan abandoned their worldly goods, sacrificed their families, and placed their all in the service of freedom. Who are these heroes?

They were no outstanding statesmen nor brilliant scholars or economists; they were the simple people who loved freedom and who loved it deeply enough to fight for it and die for it. They had only dedication, industry, a sense of mission, and a love of country that transcended all material considerations. These were the heroes of Pinaglabanan.

Today, happily for all of us we are not being asked to carry guns and to do another battle; to give up our worldly goods or even to leave the warmth of our homes. We are only being asked to keep this country strong and to make it worthy of its glorious past.

The call today is for men and women of stout hearts, willing hands, and a burning desire to make their country prosperous and free. To make this country strong, we must stand together and work together. All of us should be ready to give up something of ourselves for our country.

For my part, I pledge all the resources of government to promote the happiness of our people. I believe that government has no business to exist if it cannot enhance the general welfare.

The challenge of Pinaglabanan rings much clearer today. The opportunities for sacrifice and heroism that sparked our heroes sixty-one years ago to deeds of valor are all about us. Countless opportunities for service, for sacrifice, for real dedication await men and women of this country today.

If we truly love the heroes of Pinaglabanan and believe in the ideals for which they fought, we must not falter in our desire to preserve our country. Nor yet fail the heroes of Pinaglabanan!

*Source:* **University of the Philippines College of Law Library**

**Speech of President Garcia as we commemorate Magsaysay Day, August 31, 1957**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
As we commemorate Magsaysay Day**

[Delivered at the Luneta Independence Grandstand on August 31, 1957]

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN;  
YOUTH OF THE PHILIPPINES:

WE are honoring today, on this consecrated ground, sanctified by the blood of Rizal and numerous other martyrs of our race, the memory of Ramon Magsaysay.

Magsaysay took his place of honor side by side with the greatest of our heroes in the national pantheon because in significance and scope, the concrete deeds of his brief dazzling career as Filipino leader and savior of freedom enlarged and brightened the immortal traditions of the Filipino race. Nay, Magsaysay's achievements transcended the boundaries of geography and region, as well as the limits of time and epoch, to make him, and because of him the Filipino people, the inferior of none in dedication to mankind's noblest ideals and pursuits on this earth.

Rizal's martyrdom was among the first, and certainly the noblest deed of self-immolation, in the glorious name of freedom and human dignity in all Asia. Bonifacio's revolution was certainly the first, and perhaps the most courageous deed of national sacrifice, in behalf of human freedom and dignity in all Asia. It was the particular mark of greatness of Ramon Magsaysay's achievements that he brought to his people the substance of that freedom and human dignity which Rizal dreamed of and died for. He was the culmination of a long and crowded Filipino record of leadership in the fight for freedom in our region of the globe. He is the greatest freedom fighter of our time.

Ramon Magsaysay's coming in the prime of his youth, like a dazzling meteor descending down Asian skies, or to change the metaphor, like a new St. George, destroyed the communist dragon in our beloved Christian land, and by this signal success saved our country from being forever enslaved by totalitarian tyranny. Time and circumstance, no less than his own matchless personal qualities, favored Magsaysay in the achievement of this historic and incomparable mission.

He was a man of faith—faith in the justice of God and in the superior values of freedom; he was a man of high courage, bordering on recklessness—the blood-dripping claws and the searing breath of fire of the communist dragon never for a moment disheartened or unnerved him; they merely roused his courageous fury; they merely provoked his uncompromising ardor until literally he burned himself out in the struggle. Magsaysay was a supreme leader with an enormous heart warm with affection and compassionate love for his fellowmen, especially the poor, the unhappy, the oppressed, the disinherited. He was the noblest apostle of the brotherhood of man, in the finest sense of that much-abused phrase which is the sense of Christian recognition of man's divine nature, that indefinable essence in every human being which bids us to respect his rights and to protect the inviolability of his person and of his freedom of belief and expression.

Magsaysay understood the meaning of human dignity in practical terms more than any zealot reformer ever did. He knew that freedom was meaningless if its boons were not equally enjoyed by the poor as much as the privileged. He knew that human dignity is a charitable fiction applied to millions of the barrio folks who are always hungry, whose minds are groping in the darkness of ignorance and superstition, whose struggles cannot be removed from the ache and sweat of eking out the next meal for one's children, whose wills are prisoners of heartless oppressors and parasites of society who benefit from his labors but share him nothing but crumbs from the larder which his labors had filled.

Magsaysay was never more furious than when he came in direct contact with the helplessness of the common man. His bigness of heart translated that fury into personal concern for the underdog of society. He cheered the poor with his smile, his handclasp, his embrace, and he did not stop there. He bent all the energies and resources of his administration to the amelioration of the poor man's miseries and difficulties. He brought the vision of equality to the ken of the barrio man by treating him and dealing with him, as dedicatedly and as affectionately as he dealt with the privileged members of society. Often, he treated the barrio man even better than he did the man of wealth and social position.

This was the Magsaysay that captured the fervent love of his fellowmen in the rural areas of our country. This was the Magsaysay, who fully reciprocated that love and affection by deeds of devotion. Never did our rural areas receive the attention of the national government as vigorously as in Magsaysay's time; never was so large a proportion of government time and national resources poured into the barrios for the development of these, and for the improvement of the poor's living conditions, as during the Magsaysay administration.

This was the great legacy of Magsaysay not only to us but to all Asia. The poor man of Asia has been poor for centuries; he has been neglected, nay, spurned and sometimes deliberately forgotten for a long, long time. Like a powerful electric shock, galvanizing the millions and millions of underprivileged in Asia, Magsaysay came to give them a new shining hope, to rouse their wills to effort, to make them the focus and target of governmental action and service, to awaken or to revive their long-lost or long-repressed ideas of dignity and freedom. This is the measure of the great achievements of Ramon Magsaysay.

My friends, let no one forget this: if Magsaysay did not succeed in stopping communism's march in our country in the critical years of 1949 and 1950, everything that we had won since Lapu-Lapu, Dagohoy, and Diego Silang, all the great achievements of Rizal and our other heroes and martyrs, the fruits of Bonifacio's revolution, the pain and hunger endured, the blood spilled and the lives lost on the battlefields of Bataan and the grim tunnels of Corregidor—all this, would have been wiped out and completely destroyed in meaning and in relevance. We would have been a nation suddenly without any worthwhile history, summarily transformed into brutish slaves worse treated than those who rotted in the dungeons of ancient tyrannies. For all the peoples of Southeast Asia, that would have been the common, dismal, and heart-rending fate. That is the measure of Ramon Magsaysay's achievements as the Nemesis of communism in Asia, as the greatest freedom fighter of our place and time.

Magsaysay had other qualities and dimensions we should not forget. In recalling his labors and rendering honor to his greatness on this august occasion, the fiftieth anniversary of his birth, let us not be dazzled by his shining deeds as to overlook those qualities of his which make him even closer to our heart and to the wellsprings of our gratitude.

Magsaysay, like Rizal and Bonifacio, like the Del Pilars and the Luna brothers, like Aguinaldo and Malvar, like Mabini and the Guerreros, was the embodiment of the glory of Filipino youth.

He answered the supreme call of duty to the motherland as a young man; he entered public service after the war and after a matchless guerrilla record, still a young man; he had immense faith in the capabilities of the young; he loved his fellow young men because he knew, like Rizal knew, that the future of any nation lies in that nation's youth, that "fair hope of the Motherland," under all climes and in all epochs of history. And, like most of the great reformers and heroes of mankind, Magsaysay, to our lasting, inconsolable grief, to the immeasurable loss of the whole free world, died young; he died in the outbursting spring of manhood, in the phrase of the poet, "trailing clouds of glory" the like of which, in the words of another poet, "we shall not see again."

Ramon Magsaysay was our colleague, co-worker, and friend. He lent us, he lent all of us, courage and inspiration at a time our wills were flagging, and we were losing hope for our people. He shared us his boldness and daring in times of great peril; he revived our determination in the depressing days of 1949 and 1950 when on the one hand, the Nacionalista Party, the traditional fighter for the nation's freedom and wellbeing, was an oppressed minority, threatened with ruthless mortal blows by a rapacious and power-mad majority in the saddle; and, on the other hand, there was the bloody claws of communism reaching everywhere, demoralizing and frightening even the most stouthearted, knocking at the very gates of our national capital. We, who have shared, though in humble measure, in

the thrilling battles that Magsaysay waged against communism, will never forget that exhilarating experience, the privileged participation in a high mission of destiny.

We do not pretend to the superlative virtues of Magsaysay; none now living, among Filipino leaders, can hope to duplicate the God-given energy and the inexhaustible personal magnetism of Magsaysay. But there is something solid and lasting and indestructible which Magsaysay left us, to us who had the privilege of working side by side with him, in the multi-dutied mission which it was his destiny to undertake. He left with us a legacy of firm courage; he imbued us with a deepened devotion to the well-being of the common man, the poor; he imparted to us during his meteoric career a fuller grasp of the vision splendid of a Philippines that is God-fearing and prosperous and everlastingly free, of an Asia that will savor and enjoy the boons of human liberty as these have been known and enjoyed in more fortunate lands.

For that legacy, for that career vision of what we could accomplish by resolute steadiness on the trail blazed by this incomparable Filipino, we are the stronger even as ordinary mortals in the pursuit of the objectives he had set, in the labors of devotion to the common weal that he left unfinished. Because of his example we have an ex-haustless fountain of inspiration, and because of the wide pathway to freedom and construction that he has already opened to us, we now march with indestructible confidence and with reinvigorated energies to reach the goals he has marked for our nation. We carry on, undaunted, completing the numerous projects he had launched; we carry on, with his memory guiding and prodding us onward to push through the great reforms he had traced out for the redemption of our fellowmen in the barrios, for the achievement of their prosperity and self-respect, that they may at last regain in full measure the substance of their Christian heritage, the restoration of their human dignity.

We carry on, fearless and better prepared in the struggle, to preserve our way of freedom, to fend off and to overcome any threat of subversion to our democratic way of life; we carry on, dedicating every ounce of energy to the development of our economic life, to the resurrection of our national culture, to the spread of opportunities for education and health, knowing as we do that these are the material foundations of a people's progress; we carry on, finally—to some closest to the duties of the day—with Magsaysay's fierce devotion to the clean and honest ballot which is the real foundation, as it is the stoutest support, of all the political institutions of democracy.

Ramon Magsaysay is the greatest hero of democracy produced so far in Asia; it is to the everlasting glory and pride of our nation that he was a Filipino; it shall be our unshakable determination to make ourselves worthy of him, to be worthy of that blazing glory which he gave to the name Filipino, that we pledge our last ounce of energy, our last drop of blood, to the preservation and perfection of our democracy. This is the worthiest tribute we can render, my fellow, countrymen, to the memory, to the greatness, to the superb humanity of Ramon Magsaysay.

Thou, Oh departed leader, colleague, inspirer, and friend, whom we have gratefully and lovingly enshrined in our pantheon of national heroes, dost shower us today with the measureless compassion of thy great heart, dost steel our wills as thou were wont to do in life, that our humble feet and hands may not falter in our mission. God, grant you the repose of the good and, just. Ramon Magsaysay, we are carrying on!

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**



**Speech of President Garcia at the Aircraft Turnover Ceremonies at the Manila Domestic Air Terminal at Nichols Field, Saturday Morning, August 31, 1957**  
**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH AT THE AIRCRAFT  
TURNOVER CEREMONIES AT THE MANILA DOMESTIC AIR TERMINAL AT NICHOLS FIELD,  
SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 31, 1957**

AMBASSADOR. BOHLEN, FRIENDS, AND COUNTRYMEN:

ON behalf of the Filipino people, I wish to thank once again the American people through their very distinguished Ambassador for their abiding concern in our security and welfare. The requirements of modern warfare have made it necessary for smaller nations to pool their potentials together with friendly allied powers. It is our good fortune to have such an ally whose assistance makes it possible for small nations to manifest a determination to resist aggression; otherwise, they will be utterly at the mercy of ruthless aggressors. Moreover, the sweep of history has brought out two peoples together in the common pursuit, preservation, and defense of similar ideals.

It has been the lesson of contemporary history that ties that bind one nation with another have been threatened with disruption, unless such ties have become also so tangible as to serve notice that they are indestructible.

As the world knows, the Filipinos and the Americans fought in Bataan, in Corregidor; suffered ignominious ordeals; and many died, in Capas and other concentration camps, and in nearly all nooks and crannies where the enemy thought of erasing completely the vestiges of Filipino-American relationship. When American assistance became nil and our country finally reeled under the over-powering impact of military might and conquest, the Filipinos suffered—but the spiritual ties that bound the Philippines with America endured and remained unsullied. Our people, even in suffering, registered in the history of the fight for freedom the fact that we, Filipinos, are not merely fair-weather friends.

From such a lesson, this simple but very significant ceremony of accepting the assistance of the United States to bolster the Philippine Air Force is a tangible expression of a practical wish to make Filipino-American relationship worthy of being more cherished by both peoples. Indeed, this occasion has a triple significance because this assistance of the United States to the Philippines shows that she is concerned in the safety of our people and in their innate capacity to resist aggression; that, despite the smallness of the Philippines, the United States sees in her a partner in a common cause to help preserve the free world by further strengthening its defense against communism; and that, in a larger sense, even small nations are co-important in the common effort to preserve the freedoms of man wherever he is.

I am sure that the assistance that our Air Force gets today will go a long way towards preserving what we have thus gained; and it is our hope that it may also serve as a deterrent to communist resurgence in our country and as a prop to the defense of our institutions and our way of life, I have full confidence in the ability of the officers and men of the Philippine Air Force to make effective use of these equipment and facilities. As a tangible manifestation of this confidence, I have authorized the immediate release of P200,000 for the housing project of officers and enlisted men at the Basa Airbase.

Finally, there is reason to look forward to a more effective US-PI air defense effort in this country and in this part of the world. It is my hope that such an effort should not only be coordinated but integrated as well into one air defense team.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Message of President Garcia at the Winter Garden of the Manila Hotel, following his induction of officers and board members of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, about 8 p.m., September 3, 1957**  
**FULL TEXT OF PRESIDENT GARCIA'S REMARKS AT THE WINTER GARDEN OF THE MANILA HOTEL, FOLLOWING HIS INDUCTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES, ABOUT 8 P.M., SEPTEMBER 3, 1957**

ALLOW me to congratulate the new officers of this chamber for having been elected to their new positions.

I am very happy for the opportunity you have given me today to discuss matters with you who constitute the core of Filipino investment initiative and economic enterprise in our country. Frankly, I have looked forward to such occasion as this to enable me not only to meet you as a group but also to exchange views with you on affairs in which your combined experience in, and knowledge of, practical economics should prove extremely valuable in charting the course of our national economic development.

Only a few day ago, in a speech in Baguio, I essayed to present in review the basic elements of a program of economic development to which the late President Magsaysay had addressed himself and which the present administration as a continuation of that of our departed leader, proposes to pursue. Relative to this problem, let us map out a program that will raise the living standards and increase the purchasing power of the great masses of our people in the rural areas. While I feel very strongly the need for expansion in certain lines of industrialization and business, I feel we must first lay the broad basis for economic development—the stability of income of our rural population. I am of the belief that for a country like the Philippines, the only way we can strengthen the foundation of a solid economic program is to expand and intensify the areas of opportunity for the masses of our people to participate in active economic production and share equally in the benefits of national wealth. When this foundation is solidly formed, we can build any economic superstructure above it.

Since almost all of our people in the rural areas make a living out of agriculture, it is necessary that the first step in laying this solid framework be the laying of special emphasis on incentives for production.

If the farmer must earn more, he should produce more from the same area of land or else his produce should be bought at prices that will give him a reasonable compensation for the efforts of production. In this direction, the government through the ACCFA has offered easy credit and marketing facilities for the farmers' produce. Congress under Republic Act No. 1609 provided fertilizer at half the price for all producers; more recently, the government stepped up a program of increased irrigation facilities in the strategic areas in the Philippines. Several government agencies have started a program of seed selection which will enable the farmers to plant the best varieties of these crops. The government has already done a lot to give incentives to producers but I feel that we can do more. I have directed the formation of a committee that will recommend ways and means of increasing incentives to production.

Aside from incentive to production, one of the most important incentives is a favorable price for agricultural products. The Cabinet, in one of its meetings, approved the price support of from ₱10 to ₱10.50 per cavan of palay. I have already directed that similar studies be made for other agricultural produce so that the farmers can be properly compensated for their efforts.

It is not sufficient that the farmer produces more or that his produce be bought at a reasonable price. In order to raise his income, it is still necessary for him to buy his necessities at the lowest price possible. It is for this reason that the NARIC, the NAMARCO, the ACCFA, and other government agencies connected with the sale of prime commodities have been directed to study means of selling commodities in the lowest prices.

Once a strong foundation has been established, we should concentrate our economic development efforts on the fullest exploitation and utilization of our available natural resources. I recommend first the processing of raw materials available locally. I feel that before we go into any determined attempts to expand in other directions, that we build up our economy on our untapped natural resources. We import millions of pesos worth of canned tomatoes, tomato juice, and ketchup, yet as a tropical country we produce some of the best tomatoes in the world. We still import millions of dollars worth of fertilizer because our lone plant at the National Power Corporation cannot

produce the national requirements. We should be able to increase the productive capacity of our fertilizer plants to meet national requirements and save dollars and employ thousands of Filipino labor. I would like to cite innumerable instances of raw materials available locally which await some enterprising businessmen but you probably know this better than myself.

The government will help to venture into any field where private capital is either timid or insufficient. If you so advise, I am willing for the government to undertake new projects as a guide to private industry so they can take over once they have the know-how, the capital, and the daring. Along with the processing of raw materials available locally, an extensive program of expansion and diversification of agricultural produce should be instituted. With improved agricultural products and continuous research processing, opportunities for greater production in agriculture and industry will be enhanced. With the increase in the processing of goods, there should be a gradual decrease in importation. My dream is to see the day when it will not be necessary for us to import commodities that we can produce and process in sufficient quantities locally.

I invite the members of this chamber and Filipino businessmen all over the country to take the initiative in tapping our limitless industrial potential. If we desire substantial progress in the fulfillment of the program described above, more and more of our businessmen must address their efforts to the extractive and processing field where additional wealth can be created. The buy and sell field is Overcrowded and is proving to be a source of undue capital dissipation. Why don't we branch out to more useful fields?

My friends, the economic well-being of the people does not evolve on the government alone; in the last analysis, responsibility for the soundness of our economy rests upon the people themselves, particularly those who by reason of economic position and business experience are capable of providing the required leadership in the field of economic opportunities. I invite the members of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines and all our countrymen who have the means to do so to take the leadership in developing business opportunities that will harness our unused natural resources.

My dear friends, the happiness and well-being of millions of our people are literally in your hands. You have it in you along with other business leaders to make this country a better place to live in and to make the Filipino people, especially the simple folks who live in the rural areas, a happy and contented people. I invite you to help your country develop a strong, healthy economy. I feel very strongly about the need for direction in economic activities. I will see to it that the best minds are employed in increasing the benefits of our people. The government has already made a tremendous advance for both the producers and consumers; but I feel I can do more and it will be my one consuming desire to see that every help is given to the strengthening of our economy.

Before I close, I would like to extend an invitation to you as a body for a conference or a series of conferences in the near future under circumstances less restricted in time, so that we may explore more extensively the problems of our country's economy.

Gentlemen, the challenge is clear: yours is the answer.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Speech of President Garcia before the Jaycees, at the Winter Garden, Manila Hotel, Monday Afternoon, September 16, 1957**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH BEFORE THE JAYCEES, AT THE WINTER GARDEN, MANILA HOTEL, MONDAY AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER 16, 1957**

PRESIDENT YUCHENGCO,  
MEMBERS OF THE MANILA JAYCEES,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I AM truly grateful for your invitation to be with you today. It is a relief to get away from the raging psycho-political warfare and to be with younger businessmen and professionals who, I am sure, are immune from the pervasive poison gas of propaganda, psychowar, false charges, and promises unlimited. You are too intelligent, too well-informed and far-seeing to succumb to or to be carriers of the current epidemic of misleading the people in order to get their votes and win a public office.

I am, as you know, also a candidate. I shall not, however, attempt to influence you one way or the other as to how you should vote. You are far too independent to be influenced by others in the proper exercise of your right to participate in the popular control of the government, which is the very essence of democracy. I feel that my mission among people of high intelligence and intimate familiarity with public affairs, like you, is to plead for assistance to the Government to insure a free and clean election on November 12. It is of utmost importance to us and to all free nations that the result of our voting will be a faithful translation of enlightened and intelligent Filipino public opinion.

Under ordinary circumstances, clean elections are the very life of democracy. The unusual contemporary circumstances of our infant Republic within and of the world without, furnish equally urgent reasons why we Filipinos should insist on honest and clean elections.

One of these reasons is the patent fact that we are still laying the foundation and setting down the precedents for our young Republic. To build an enduring nation, temporary advantages must often be sacrificed to those principles which are the massive bridge to sound and wise national growth. And our own generation has that extraordinary opportunity, vouchsafed only once to a race, of being the builders of our nation. We must not fail.

I commend to you and to our countrymen of this generation the unchallenged verdict of great historians on the basic reasons why George Washington, although admittedly not of the caliber of the intellectual giants of his time, was nevertheless the greatest nation-builder among them all. Collaborating together, two of America's most respected historians have written the following penetrating evaluation of Washington: "This quiet, plain-speaking gentleman of Virginia glimpsed a truth hidden from his more talented contemporaries: that the means by which a nation proceeds, especially in its adolescence, are more important than the ends which it pursues."

Only on basic and massive principles, not on sheer opportunism, can we build a strong and enduring Republic. This means among others a clean and honest election in which deceptive issues have been exploded and pseudo-messiahs, pseudo-economists, and pseudo-crusaders have been unmasked; in which voters can cast their ballots free of deception and fear; in which the will of the people is freely registered and honestly recorded. Any other kind of election is a travesty of democracy and republicanism.

The contemporary political situation of the world also demands of us the same scrupulous regard for the democratic process and the popular will. The clash between democracy and communism is total; to win, democracy must buttress itself where it is weak and, where it is strong, prove its soundness and wisdom by producing the maximum good. While the basic sin of communism is its frustration of the people's will by the denial of human dignity and life, the strength of democracy is its recognition of the supremacy of public opinion by respecting and protecting the dignity and freedom of the human person. The expression of the public will through an election is no less than the cornerstone of democracy. To corrupt and subvert an election is therefore to undercut democracy and aid communism. In the total war, any disloyalty to democracy is no less than treason.

I urge you therefore and, through you, our people to do all in your power to insure the honesty and freedom of the current political campaign and the coming presidential election. As I make this request, you will perhaps allow me to elaborate on my own concept of honest and free election.

I do not minimize the importance of seeing to it that the conduct of the election itself will be free of fraud and other irregularities. Voters should vote in an atmosphere of freedom and security, and the votes cast should be counted with honesty and accuracy. These are the obvious things to do and they should be and shall be done.

But the honesty and freedom of the election depends not only on what happens in the election precincts but also on what is happening between now and November 12. While we plead for a free election, we should also see to it that our people can exercise the right of suffrage in a truly free atmosphere. This will not be possible unless civic-minded individuals and associations like the Jaycees undertake a campaign of enlightenment to counteract the excesses of political parties and political workers, resulting in gross and unscrupulous misrepresentations and impossible and fantastic promises. If our people are misled into believing untruths and falsehoods, they cannot truly vote in freedom.

Never in the political history of our country have our people been subjected as they are being subjected today to the barrage of half-truths and falsehoods that manage to find their way to print and over the air waves. Only the other day a letter from an indignant newspaper reader angrily decried the reporting of a rally staged by a candidate on the public plaza of Oroquieta, Misamis Occidental. The meeting had been previously reported in the newspapers as having been attended by 15,000 people and as having been publicly supported by the municipal officials. It turned out, according to the letter sent by the resident of the town, that the audience had not been 15,000 but 500, and that the public officials who had appeared on the stage had repeatedly and emphatically declared that they were participating only in the name of hospitality and that their political sympathies were with other parties and other candidates. This is typical of the high-pressure propaganda which the unscrupulous experts in psychological warfare and public relations have brought to the current political campaign.

Then, there is the insistent claim by other candidates, except Senator Recto, that they and they alone are capable of carrying out the program and policies of the late President Magsaysay. What is the warranty that they speak the truth? Can they produce an iota of proof? I hope it will not be construed as immodesty on my part if I state that I was a member of the Magsaysay team, constitutionally next to the late President himself and constitutionally his lawful successor upon his death. For others to claim that they are the heirs of Magsaysay is, I think, to lose the sense of balance and mislead and mesmerize the people.

I am just picking at random some of the examples of what I mean by the campaign of misrepresentation which you and other citizens of goodwill should try to counteract with a campaign of enlightenment. Another and perhaps one of the most unpardonable attempts at misrepresentation involves the public debt. The public debt is susceptible of documentation in depth, its figures being a part of the public record. Yet it has been misrepresented to the people not once but many times, not informatively but insistently during this political season.

It has been alleged that the public debt of ₱1,500,000,000 is the fault of the present administration and is proof of its extravagance. Yet it is a matter of record, supported by irrefutable public documents, that of this total amount, the Liberal administration had incurred no less than ₱1,065,975,000 while the Magsaysay and the present administration contracted only the amount of ₱469,465,000. Furthermore, of the indebtedness incurred by the Liberal administration, no less than ₱696,938,000 was expended for ordinary budgetary purposes and only ₱369,037,000 was invested in economic development. In contrast, the Nacionalista administration not only has used more than 65 per cent of its borrowings for long-range development projects intended to benefit the present and future generations, leaving less than 35 per cent used for budgetary expenditures, but it has also paid off ₱157,917,000 of the budgetary indebtedness incurred by the Liberal administration. Even official figures—even the venerable science of mathematics—are being twisted and tortured!

The attempt to mislead the people with falsehoods and half-truths is so frantic and so flagrant that it is getting difficult for the average, well-intentioned individual to get at the truth. For this reason, a campaign of enlightenment

on the part of the civic-minded individuals and organizations has become an urgent need during this election campaign.

As if torturing and twisting the figures and the facts were not sufficient, the people are also regaled with promises so fantastic that no one with a modicum of conscience could ever make them. It is true, of course, that the political season is a season of promises during which candidates promise the moon and the stars and heaven, too, in order to snare votes. Nevertheless, individuals and organizations like the Jaycees can render a most necessary public service by assisting the people in distinguishing between a sincere and honest promise on the one hand and an impossible, insincere, and dishonest vote-getting promise on the other hand.

One of the parties has advanced the promise that, if it wins the popular mandate, it will bring prosperity to the country and people by the simple device of banning importation and printing money. You know and I know that the problems of our national economy are not so simple as to be susceptible of solution through economic and political quackery. What the country needs is a well-thought-out and practical economic plan such as our National Economic Council has developed and continues to update in accordance with new situations and new developments.

With the cocksureness of abiding innocence, we are promised low prices, full employment, high wages, abundant production, universal electrification, and what have you. The promises are poured forth as if they could be made to materialize by the flourish of a magic wand. In New York, there is an organization called the Liars' Club. At its annual meetings, prizes are offered for the most stupendous lies that members can concoct. But, ladies and gentlemen, the guidance of the Republic, the responsibility of safeguarding the security and pursuing the happiness of 22,000,000 people, is far more complex, far more responsible, and far more serious than the chore of winning a Liars' Club prize. We must make our people realize that candidates for public office can also be measured by the responsibility or irresponsibility, the sincerity or insincerity, the carefulness or carelessness, with which they make promises.

With the campaign of enlightenment must of course go hand in hand the efforts to make the election clean and honest. I notice with real gratification that the Manila Jaycees are sponsoring a nation-wide campaign to get out the vote. This is a commendable movement. The more of our qualified electors participate in the election, the more accurate is the public opinion registered and the more valid is the public mandate extended to the winning party. Democracy is at its best when all the citizens are interested in public affairs and all the qualified voters participate in elections. I wish you the optimum success in your highly-commendable campaign.

You may have noticed that the Government is also taking various steps to insure the cleanliness and honesty of the election. The Commission on Elections, the Constabulary, and the public school teachers are being mobilized in order to handle the election with efficiency, honesty and accuracy. I put my trust in these organizations. The public school teachers—and I was once one of them—will actually and directly handle the election by registering new voters, checking on the identity of those who vote, seeing to it that they vote properly, and counting the votes. They can be trusted to perform this task with sincerity, honesty, and efficiency.

I am so confident of this that I have invited the local and the foreign press to act as impartial observers and to report whatever information they may acquire freely and fearlessly. In this connection, you may have read in the newspapers that I have ordered the reduction of the press rates on telegrams from 3 centavos to 2 centavos a word so that the reports from the provinces may be ample and comprehensive. Our Government, however, has no authority to reduce the rates on cables sent abroad, but I do express the hope that the cable companies will follow suit. We want the rest of the free world to realize that we in the Philippines are sincerely willing and fully able to follow the basic practices and processes of democracy.

Our nation is one of the distant outposts of democracy in the East. We must keep it strong for ourselves and for the entire free world. Honest and clean elections are among the strongest bulwarks of freedom. For our own sake and that of our democratic allies, we cannot afford to repeat the elections of 1946 and 1949 that gave our newly-born Republic a black eye. I plead to you and to all our people to unmask the demagogues, free our campaign of opportunism, explode the fantastic promises and brazen lies, and help maintain an honest and peaceful election. This is our sacred duty to ourselves and to our way of life.

Others may find satisfaction and contentment in winning public office through misrepresentation, false promises, and fraud. I assure you that I am not one of them. A famous American editor once said, "I would rather be right than president!" Echoing his laudable sentiment, I say here and now that I would not want to continue as President of the Philippines unless I am elected in an honest and free election.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines College of Law Library**

**Address of President Garcia on the Golden Jubilee of the Philippine Assembly Address  
of**

**His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
On the Golden Jubilee of the Philippine Assembly**

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel on October 16, 1957]

SPEAKER OSMEÑA AND REVERED MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE ASSEMBLY,  
SENATE PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ,  
SPEAKER LAUREL AND MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS,  
PRESIDENT FABELLA AND MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION,  
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I FEEL privileged and fortunate to be able to participate in the commemoration, under the auspices of the Philippine Historical Association, of the Golden Anniversary of the Philippine Assembly. It is regrettable, as Speaker Osmeña mentioned in his address this morning, that the Resolution, which provided for an official celebration of this occasion, was overlooked primarily because of the death of its senior author, Congressman Pedro Lopez of Cebu. In this sense, the airplane crash that suddenly snatched away from our midst many respected public servants and dear friends, including the late beloved President Ramon Magsaysay, was a double tragedy. I wish therefore to add my commendation of the Philippine Historical Association for its deep sense of history and duty in assuming the leadership in the fulfillment of an important national responsibility.

In his interesting study of history the famed British historian, Dr. Arnold Toynbee, tells us that, in humanity's long existence, at least 21 major civilizations have perished, primarily because they have failed to respond properly and adequately to the challenge of their times, and that their failure was mainly due, in turn, to the absence of a great leader to lead the nation through its times of trouble. When the American Congress authorized the establishment of the Philippine Assembly, we received a great boon, but we were at the same time confronted by a great challenge. It was a boon, surely, in that it offered us the opportunity to take the first forward step towards our goal of self-government and freedom. But it was also clearly a challenge in that if we failed to live up to the expectations of our American friends and thus confirmed the opinion of our American critics who claimed that we were unfit for self-government, we would have found the road to free and independent nationhood blocked for a long time, if not indeed forever.

Thanks to Divine Providence, in the face of that challenge, we did not fail. We succeeded decisively and massively, because at that time of our national need there arose a great leader and statesman who possessed the wisdom and foresight to lead our people to fulfillment and around whom they instinctively and ardently rallied. That leader and statesman was Sergio Osmeña.

Only 29 years old then and one of the youngest members of the first Philippine Assembly, he already had won a distinguished record of public service. As prosecuting attorney for Cebu and Oriental Negros and, subsequently, as provincial governor of the former, he had manifested dynamic energy, great courage, and a keen vision of the national destiny. The widening popular acclaim for this rising young man began spontaneously like a brilliant morning when, in the first national convention of provincial governors, he was unanimously elected the chairman. The earmarks of natural leadership in his public acts and in his youthful personality were so unmistakable that, on the eve of the organization of the Philippine Assembly after most of the first assemblymen had converged in Manila, but before he himself had arrived, the *Manila Times* of October 10, 1907, predicted his choice as Speaker and paid him the following tribute:

"No other candidate for the position is mentioned and his unanimous election seemed almost certain. He has been pledged the support of such men as Pedro A. Paterno, Felipe Agoncillo, and Leon Ma. Guerrero."



Inevitably chosen Speaker of the Philippine Assembly, Sergio Osmeña plotted the national course that unerringly led to eventual independence and sovereignty. To appreciate the difficulty of this task, it should be remembered that, after having vainly fought a series of revolutions and war, we Filipinos had also failed to gain our freedom. The Katipunan Revolution of 1896 ended in the Pact of Biak-na-Bato and the exile to Hongkong of its surviving leaders. The Revolution of 1898, though successful against Spain, was telescoped into the war with the United States that resulted in a new conquest of our country.

After the wars, a new set of leaders veered the national orientation from the extreme of “violent nationalism” to the opposite extreme of “lost nationalism”. They advocated the annexation of the Philippines to America. Organizing the Federal Party, they adopted as their guiding political principle the following declaration in their platform:

“The territory of the Philippine Islands may be considered one of the states of the Union, but it is never to be ceded as a whole or in part by the United States to any foreign power.”

It was Sergio Osmeña, as president of the new Nacionalista Party and Speaker of the Philippine Assembly, who developed a new and sane Philippine nationalism, a nationalism that took into full consideration the past experiences and the contemporary conditions of the country as well as the political principles of the new sovereign power. It was a nationalism of peace, yet firm and uncompromising in its insistence and demand for dignity, equality, and independence. Under the spirit of this new nationalism and with Sergio Osmeña as the national leader, we won the Jones Law, together with its concessions of broad self-government oriented to a definite promise of national independence. Under the leadership of Manuel L. Quezon but continuing in the direction of the Osmeña nationalism, we obtained the Independence Act, under which we finally established the Republic of the Philippines.

Sergio Osmeña was our first modern and successful nationalist, our first national leader and spokesman, the father of our widening self-government that inevitably led to national sovereignty and independence. He was our country's answer to the challenge of a new national opportunity. And he fully rose to the occasion; he is the architect of Filipino freedom.

But while Sergio Osmeña was the leader of the Assembly, the nation was equally blessed with many other great and patriotic men among its first members. These were Pedro A. Paterno, the peace-maker of the Biak-na-Bato and last president of the Malolos Cabinet; Felipe Agoncillo, leading diplomat of the Malolos Republic; Alberto Barreto, outstanding finance authority of the time; Leon Ma. Guerrero, the older in years and to whose matured judgment other members deferred; Manuel L. Quezon, one of the brightest and most promising among the younger members; Isaura Gabaldon, the patriotic country squire from Nueva Ecija; Vicente Singson Encarnacion, wise leader of the minority in the Assembly, and Jose A. Clarin, uncompromising fiery nationalist of the Dagohoy type. Like their leader, these men and the others who composed the first Assembly, no less among them the eleven living members, a number of whom have honored us with their historic presence today: Assemblymen Picazo, Zandueta, Aguas, Alkino, Borma, Demetrio, Osmeña, Pobre, Rodriguez, Encarnacion, Sotto, and De Veyra were selfless in their dedication to duty and responsibility and in their passion for public service.

With such patriotic members under a great leader and statesman, the record of the Philippine Assembly has been like a luminous star by which succeeding legislatures have steered their course to the harbor of fruitfulness and wisdom. In his address this morning, ex-Speaker Osmeña briefly reviewed the Assembly's record. In the field of legislation it planted the seeds of social justice, educational advancement, fiscal and budgetary efficiency, economic development and other great policies which together constitute the foundation of our national policies. In the area of self-government, the Assembly widened its powers over and above the limitations of the Bill of 1902, especially with respect to appropriations and the budget and the selection of the Resident Commissioners to Washington. In the realm of nationalism, it gave eloquent expression and firm direction to the national demand for independence. And, as a peaceful instrument of human liberation, it helped to forge Philippine-American friendship and the American policy of international altruism, which in time exploded colonialism in all its forms. Indeed, the Philippine Assembly performed its task with wisdom, oriented the direction of national progress with vision, led the country with dignity and firmness in its search for freedom and independence, and contributed substantially to the development of international altruism, amity, and peace.

The nation's debt of gratefulness to the Philippine Assembly and its members and Speaker is therefore immense and enduring. Its brilliant record is far more than a list of solid accomplishments. For in truth, by its acts, the Assembly increased the national and racial prestige and stature and placed all of us and all our unborn generations under obligation to keep faith with the statesmen who were its immortal members.

Fortunately, all these years and up to the present time, the nation has been singularly benefited by the continuing services of Sergio Osmeña. Upon the expiration of the life of the Philippine Assembly in 1916, he became the Speaker of the House of Representatives which supplanted it and, as such, the recognized national leader. Although in 1922 the political leadership passed to Manuel L. Quezon, Sergio Osmeña continued as member and president pro-tempore of the Senate and, in these positions, became the stabilizing force behind the aggressive Quezon leadership. In 1933, leading a small mission together with Manuel Roxas, he succeeded in getting the American Congress to enact the first independence law.

The controversy in the Philippines which resulted from this law at first threatened to disrupt the country's political life and "even to frustrate the achievement of nationhood already within our grasp. It was again the balanced statesmanship of Osmeña that restored harmony and led to the virtually unanimous acceptance of the independence law, reenacted together with a minor amendment regarding American military bases, which never took effect. As Vice-President of the Commonwealth, he once more gave to the country the benefit of his experience and wisdom. During the last years of the war, when President Quezon was unfortunately dying of tuberculosis, it was Sergio Osmeña who loyally and selflessly carried on and who succeeded him upon his death on August 1, 1944, at Saranac Lake, New York. At long last, the architect of sound Philippine nationalism and independence became the President of his country. To this position no other Filipino was more entitled than he.

But, alas, upon the return of peace and after the shocking and tragic experiences of our country during the war and enemy occupation, our people had changed. In the presidential election of 1946, when Sergio Osmeña did not campaign for his election but simply relied on the people's wise judgment on the basis of his lifetime of public service, a new party, organized and led by men who were soon to be found wanting, won the election. For the first time since 1904, Sergio Osmeña ceased to be active in our Government.

It was an irreparable loss. As everyone now knows, his retirement from the public service became the opportunity for a party and an administration to perpetuate themselves in power through the most fraudulent elections in our history, to give the country the most corrupt government we have known, and to give our young Republic the poorest and most inauspicious start possible. But thanks to the people's sober change of mind, in 1953 the Nacionalista Party was returned to power and, with it, the steadying influence of Sergio Osmeña, as Elder Statesman.

I think I can truthfully say that the late President Ramon Magsaysay highly valued the opinion and advice of Sergio Osmeña not only as a member of the Council of State but also as the principal founder of the Nacionalista Party and the only living ex-President of the nation. For myself, I can say without reservation that I defer to and respect the counsel of our Grand Old Man whom God has obviously given us to serve as our leader and mentor during our history's most critical and decisive decades.

Perhaps the most authoritative verdict on the services of Sergio Osmeña is that of former Supreme Court Justice George A. Malcolm in what he has announced as the last book he will ever write. A wise and competent observer, a detached and impartial judge, Justice Malcolm states the following as his last verdict on President Osmeña in particular, and Filipino public servants in general:

"From 1904 to 1946, Osmeña held office without interruption. In every position, although harassed by trouble, he displayed those qualities that were to make him the country's leading statesman—possibly the only statesman that the Philippines has produced. I was an on-the-scene observer for the major part of the years that Osmeña was in official life. It is from personal experience and authentic sources, therefore, that I proffer evidence of Sergio Osmeña's statesmanship."

Sergio Osmeña is truly God's gift to the Filipino people. In power and victory he was humble, magnanimous, and far-visioned. In defeat he was disciplined, loyal and dignified. In retirement from public service he is selfless, wise and dedicated to people and country, who has become the symbol of Philippine freedom and nationalism, the Philippine Assembly truly continues to live.

The brilliant record of the Philippine Assembly has made the work of subsequent legislatures and the entire Government far easier than it might have been. The Assembly established policies so sound and so wise that, by adaptation to new conditions and widening in scope, they continue as our guideposts today. We have geared a tree from the seeds of social justice it planted to have broadened its educational work; we have expanded its economic program, including the establishment of government corporations; and, we have maintained the juicy of friendship and cooperation with the United States that it began. Indeed, the friendship between America and the Philippines that became the basis of the cooperative effort that culminated in the establishment of the Philippines also serves today to be the basis of the continuing friendship and good will between our two sovereign nations. We who have followed the great statesmen who composed the first Philippine Assembly, can only strive and hope that we may succeed in standards of integrity, statesmanship, and patriotism.

On this day, the Golden Anniversary of the inauguration of the Philippine Assembly, I claim the privilege and duty of giving expression to the national gratitude and tribute to Sergio Osmeña and his colleagues. On behalf of the 22,000,000 Filipinos who compose our region, I wish to make of record my sincere belief that Sergio Osmeña was the soul of the Philippine Assembly, that the Philippine Assembly is the cornerstone of Philippine liberty, that to him and his colleagues the Filipino people owe the impetus and direction of their orderly and successful growth to nationhood, and that the Republic of the Philippines is the fruit of their great and patriotic work.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1957). President Garcia's address on the Golden Jubilee of the Philippine Assembly, delivered at the Manila Hotel, Wednesday, October 16, 1957. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 53(20), 7215-7220.

**Address of President Garcia on the Golden Jubilee of the Philippine Assembly Address  
of**

**His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
On the Golden Jubilee of the Philippine Assembly**

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel on October 16, 1957]

SPEAKER OSMEÑA AND REVERED MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE ASSEMBLY,  
SENATE PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ,  
SPEAKER LAUREL AND MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS,  
PRESIDENT FABELLA AND MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION,  
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I FEEL privileged and fortunate to be able to participate in the commemoration, under the auspices of the Philippine Historical Association, of the Golden Anniversary of the Philippine Assembly. It is regrettable, as Speaker Osmeña mentioned in his address this morning, that the Resolution, which provided for an official celebration of this occasion, was overlooked primarily because of the death of its senior author, Congressman Pedro Lopez of Cebu. In this sense, the airplane crash that suddenly snatched away from our midst many respected public servants and dear friends, including the late beloved President Ramon Magsaysay, was a double tragedy. I wish therefore to add my commendation of the Philippine Historical Association for its deep sense of history and duty in assuming the leadership in the fulfillment of an important national responsibility.

In his interesting study of history the famed British historian, Dr. Arnold Toynbee, tells us that, in humanity's long existence, at least 21 major civilizations have perished, primarily because they have failed to respond properly and adequately to the challenge of their times, and that their failure was mainly due, in turn, to the absence of a great leader to lead the nation through its times of trouble. When the American Congress authorized the establishment of the Philippine Assembly, we received a great boon, but we were at the same time confronted by a great challenge. It was a boon, surely, in that it offered us the opportunity to take the first forward step towards our goal of self-government and freedom. But it was also clearly a challenge in that if we failed to live up to the expectations of our American friends and thus confirmed the opinion of our American critics who claimed that we were unfit for self-government, we would have found the road to free and independent nationhood blocked for a long time, if not indeed forever.

Thanks to Divine Providence, in the face of that challenge, we did not fail. We succeeded decisively and massively, because at that time of our national need there arose a great leader and statesman who possessed the wisdom and foresight to lead our people to fulfillment and around whom they instinctively and ardently rallied. That leader and statesman was Sergio Osmeña.

Only 29 years old then and one of the youngest members of the first Philippine Assembly, he already had won a distinguished record of public service. As prosecuting attorney for Cebu and Oriental Negros and, subsequently, as provincial governor of the former, he had manifested dynamic energy, great courage, and a keen vision of the national destiny. The widening popular acclaim for this rising young man began spontaneously like a brilliant morning when, in the first national convention of provincial governors, he was unanimously elected the chairman. The earmarks of natural leadership in his public acts and in his youthful personality were so unmistakable that, on the eve of the organization of the Philippine Assembly after most of the first assemblymen had converged in Manila, but before he himself had arrived, the *Manila Times* of October 10, 1907, predicted his choice as Speaker and paid him the following tribute:

"No other candidate for the position is mentioned and his unanimous election seemed almost certain. He has been pledged the support of such men as Pedro A. Paterno, Felipe Agoncillo, and Leon Ma. Guerrero."

Inevitably chosen Speaker of the Philippine Assembly, Sergio Osmeña plotted the national course that unerringly led to eventual independence and sovereignty. To appreciate the difficulty of this task, it should be remembered that, after having vainly fought a series of revolutions and war, we Filipinos had also failed to gain our freedom. The Katipunan Revolution of 1896 ended in the Pact of Biak-na-Bato and the exile to Hongkong of its surviving leaders. The Revolution of 1898, though successful against Spain, was telescoped into the war with the United States that resulted in a new conquest of our country.

After the wars, a new set of leaders veered the national orientation from the extreme of “violent nationalism” to the opposite extreme of “lost nationalism”. They advocated the annexation of the Philippines to America. Organizing the Federal Party, they adopted as their guiding political principle the following declaration in their platform:

“The territory of the Philippine Islands may be considered one of the states of the Union, but it is never to be ceded as a whole or in part by the United States to any foreign power.”

It was Sergio Osmeña, as president of the new Nacionalista Party and Speaker of the Philippine Assembly, who developed a new and sane Philippine nationalism, a nationalism that took into full consideration the past experiences and the contemporary conditions of the country as well as the political principles of the new sovereign power. It was a nationalism of peace, yet firm and uncompromising in its insistence and demand for dignity, equality, and independence. Under the spirit of this new nationalism and with Sergio Osmeña as the national leader, we won the Jones Law, together with its concessions of broad self-government oriented to a definite promise of national independence. Under the leadership of Manuel L. Quezon but continuing in the direction of the Osmeña nationalism, we obtained the Independence Act, under which we finally established the Republic of the Philippines.

Sergio Osmeña was our first modern and successful nationalist, our first national leader and spokesman, the father of our widening self-government that inevitably led to national sovereignty and independence. He was our country's answer to the challenge of a new national opportunity. And he fully rose to the occasion; he is the architect of Filipino freedom.

But while Sergio Osmeña was the leader of the Assembly, the nation was equally blessed with many other great and patriotic men among its first members. These were Pedro A. Paterno, the peace-maker of the Biak-na-Bato and last president of the Malolos Cabinet; Felipe Agoncillo, leading diplomat of the Malolos Republic; Alberto Barreto, outstanding finance authority of the time; Leon Ma. Guerrero, the older in years and to whose matured judgment other members deferred; Manuel L. Quezon, one of the brightest and most promising among the younger members; Isaura Gabaldon, the patriotic country squire from Nueva Ecija; Vicente Singson Encarnacion, wise leader of the minority in the Assembly, and Jose A. Clarin, uncompromising fiery nationalist of the Dagohoy type. Like their leader, these men and the others who composed the first Assembly, no less among them the eleven living members, a number of whom have honored us with their historic presence today: Assemblymen Picazo, Zandueta, Aguas, Alkino, Borma, Demetrio, Osmeña, Pobre, Rodriguez, Encarnacion, Sotto, and De Veyra were selfless in their dedication to duty and responsibility and in their passion for public service.

With such patriotic members under a great leader and statesman, the record of the Philippine Assembly has been like a luminous star by which succeeding legislatures have steered their course to the harbor of fruitfulness and wisdom. In his address this morning, ex-Speaker Osmeña briefly reviewed the Assembly's record. In the field of legislation it planted the seeds of social justice, educational advancement, fiscal and budgetary efficiency, economic development and other great policies which together constitute the foundation of our national policies. In the area of self-government, the Assembly widened its powers over and above the limitations of the Bill of 1902, especially with respect to appropriations and the budget and the selection of the Resident Commissioners to Washington. In the realm of nationalism, it gave eloquent expression and firm direction to the national demand for independence. And, as a peaceful instrument of human liberation, it helped to forge Philippine-American friendship and the American policy of international altruism, which in time exploded colonialism in all its forms. Indeed, the Philippine Assembly performed its task with wisdom, oriented the direction of national progress with vision, led the country with dignity and firmness in its search for freedom and independence, and contributed substantially to the development of international altruism, amity, and peace.

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Fortunately, all these years and up to the present time, the nation has been singularly benefited by the continuing services of Sergio Osmeña. Upon the expiration of the life of the Philippine Assembly in 1916, he became the Speaker of the House of Representatives which supplanted it and, as such, the recognized national leader. Although in 1922 the political leadership passed to Manuel L. Quezon, Sergio Osmeña continued as member and president pro-tempore of the Senate and, in these positions, became the stabilizing force behind the aggressive Quezon leadership. In 1933, leading a small mission together with Manuel Roxas, he succeeded in getting the American Congress to enact the first independence law.

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But, alas, upon the return of peace and after the shocking and tragic experiences of our country during the war and enemy occupation, our people had changed. In the presidential election of 1946, when Sergio Osmeña did not campaign for his election but simply relied on the people's wise judgment on the basis of his lifetime of public service, a new party, organized and led by men who were soon to be found wanting, won the election. For the first time since 1904, Sergio Osmeña ceased to be active in our Government.

It was an irreparable loss. As everyone now knows, his retirement from the public service became the opportunity for a party and an administration to perpetuate themselves in power through the most fraudulent elections in our history, to give the country the most corrupt government we have known, and to give our young Republic the poorest and most inauspicious start possible. But thanks to the people's sober change of mind, in 1953 the Nacionalista Party was returned to power and, with it, the steadying influence of Sergio Osmeña, as Elder Statesman.

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*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

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**Speech of President Garcia on the 13th anniversary of MacArthur's landing in Leyte**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
On the 13th anniversary of MacArthur's landing in Leyte**

[Delivered in Tacloban, Leyte, October 20, 1957]

MAYOR  
GOVERNOR  
LIONS  
AMBASSADOR  
DISTINGUISHED  
MY COUNTRYMEN:

PRESIDENT

CINCO,  
TORRES,  
MATE,  
BOHLEN,  
GUESTS,

WE ARE gathered once again to commemorate a historic event in our people's fight for freedom and dignity. Indeed, the first shots that were fired in this historic province of Leyte by the American forces of liberation 14 years ago, today, were fired in the name of freedom and the dignity of free men.

It was much more than just a military operation in the conduct of the war in the Southwest Pacific areas. It was much more than merely a campaign to defeat the enemy by the use of a superior military force; it was much more than just a classic strategic military blow into the heart of our enemy occupied land.

My countrymen, the successful return of the American forces of liberation was a confirmation of our people's abiding belief in the righteousness of their cause; a fulfillment of our people's faith in the friendship and partnership with the great American people; and finally, a strengthening of our people's faith in Collective Security arrangements such as our Mutual Defense Treaty with the United States.

To me personally, my countrymen, the return of the American forces of liberation was also a fulfillment of many things I believed in. I was then somewhere in my own province of Bohol lending assistance to our guerrilla forces. I heard very distinctly the first shots fired in the battle of Leyte Gulf. I felt then, as I do feel now, that each round fired in that initial assault signalled the return of freedom and dignity to our country and people.

It was a fulfillment to me personally because, as Senator of the Philippines at that time, I succeeded to exchange notes with our late President Quezon, who continued to run our government in exile in the United States.

My countrymen, permit me to quote in part what I wrote President Quezon on October 16, 1943.

"Indeed, I was exulted to receive your radiogram of September 9 in answer to my letter whereby, Your Excellency deepened our faith in America and our unshaken and unshakable belief in the ultimate and definitive victory of allies and the cause of Democracy and Freedom... Our soldiers experienced a rebirth of morale thus inspiring them to great endurance, higher courage, and sublimer spirit of sacrifice. Copies of your message are now all over northern Mindanao and Eastern Visayas....

In all parts of the country, Mr. President, allow me to inform you that there is only one voice, one hope, one sentiment, and it is the earliest return of America to the Philippines led by General Mac Arthur ... "

It was a year later, almost to the day, when, instead of a written reply from President Quezon, the American forces of liberation landed in this historic province.



It is, well, my countrymen, that on this thirteenth Anniversary of the Leyte landing which marked the reaffirmation of friendship between two peoples sharing the same hopes and ideals, that we reappraise the significance of this historic event.

If I had to dwell and belabor on the details of my personal attachment to the significance of this event, it is because I feel that certain fundamental precepts should be restated, especially those that relate to the traditional friendship between the American people and our people.

Both as a matter of personal conviction and as a fundamental precept of national policy, I have always believed in the strengthening of that friendship.

This, I want to make emphatically clear that as long as I am the President of this Republic, it shall be my high purpose to further strengthen this friendship.

It is to the credit of our two peoples that out of this friendship was born a partnership between two sovereign nations. We now stand together with the United States of America as equal partners engaged in a common pursuit—that of the security, prosperity, and the happiness of our two peoples.

It is unfortunate that today certain elements of the nation are desperately trying to picture a deterioration of Philippine-American relationship, in the hope that they can discredit the present administration. It has become even more unfortunate that these elements of our Nation are at the same time trying to make a bid for our people's trust and confidence. Their behavior, my countrymen, is tantamount to flouting with problems involving National Security. I can think of no greater disservice to our Country and people than the indiscriminate use of half truths and outright lies on matters involving vital national issues such as our relationship with friendly governments. Since the present administration took the helm of government in 1954, the relationship between the government of the United States and that of our own has reached its peak of mutual respect and the closest of collaboration in the pursuit of our common goals and objectives.

I urge you, my countrymen, to guard against these insidious manipulations of our national scene if only to keep inviolate the meaning and significance of this historic event we are celebrating today. I urge you not to yield to this systematic attempt of these forces of evil to tamper with the minds of our people through the use of a massive propaganda machine. I urge you to guard against these false prophets and Messiahs who, because of selfish personal ambitions, would now play with our hard-earned freedom with impunity. I urge you to look at them very closely before believing what they preach.

I have been informed that the United States Navy made available for the celebration today the United States destroyer *Cowell* better known as the *Cow*. It is now anchored alongside the Tacloban wharf. I would like to make mention of special guests in this celebration who participated in the landing operations during the initial assault. I have in mind at the moment Mr. George Aurell of the United States Embassy, Admiral Keith, Commander of Subic Bay, and the following Naval personnel now on duty with the *Cow*: M. E. Jones, W. R. Hill, and C. W. Odell. I consider the presence today of these veterans and that of the United States destroyer *Cowell* as an eloquent testimony of the warm friendship towards us by the American people. I would like to thank on behalf of my government and people the distinguished Ambassador of the United States, Ambassador Bohlen, for lending added meaning to this celebration of the Leyte landing.

At this juncture, I would also like to congratulate the Tacloban Lions for sponsoring this year's traditional celebration. They have rendered a great service to your community and our country.

As we bring to a close another milestone of this historic event, I would now ask our people to keep faith and nurture the memory of those who gave their all on this sacred shore. For the saga that was Leyte is the saga of freedom for all times. I know I cannot pay enough tribute to the people of Tacloban and the province of Leyte who bore the brunt of battle in the fight to regain our lost freedom and dignity. To them are due the honors and the salute from a grateful people and of free men everywhere!

I thank you.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1957). President Garcia's speech on the 13th anniversary of MacArthur's landing in Leyte, delivered Sunday afternoon, October 20, in Tacloban, Leyte. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 53(20), 7220-7223.

**Speech of President Garcia on the Luna Centennial Celebration Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
On the Luna Centennial Celebration**

[Delivered at Badoc, Ilocos Norte on October 23, 1957]

SENATOR PAREDES, SECRETARY LIM, GOVERNOR FARINAS, MAYOR AGABIN, MEMBERS OF THE JUAN LUNA CENTENNIAL COMMISSION, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AND FRIENDS:

ONE hundred years ago to this very day, this historic and peaceful town saw the birth of a baby boy who was destined to achieve world renown. He was born to one of its well-known families, Mr. and Mrs. Joaquin Luna de San Pedro. Juan, the child, grew up to join that small group of immortals whose names, in the words of Jose Rizal, “in themselves signify achievement invoke, reverence, and greatness—names which, like magic formulas, recall agreeable and pleasant ideas, names which come to form a compact, a token of peace, a bond of love, among the nations.”

I join you today in proudly and reverently honoring the memory of Juan Luna. You have given Juan Luna to our people, and our people have given him to the entire world.

For, in the realm of art, Juan Luna ranks among the world’s immortals. Because of him, and perhaps also because of his young brother, Antonio, who, with fierce courage, commanded the Filipino forces during the war with America, Badoc ranks with Rizal’s Calamba as the cradle of Filipino patriots and heroes.

Although Juan Luna began his art education in Manila, it was in Spain, Italy, and France that his great talent developed. Through the intercession of an enlightened Spanish official, Don Francisco, Paula de Rodoreda, the Ayuntamiento of Manila granted him a four-year scholarship to study art in Europe. It was also Spanish recognition and acclamation that encouraged him in his studies and brought his art to perfection.

One of Luna’s early paintings in Europe was “The Death of Cleopatra.” Not only did this work win signal recognition at the Exposition General de Bellas Artes in Madrid with the award of a silver medal, but the Spanish Government purchased it for 1,000 duros and placed it on permanent exhibition at the Museo Nacional de Pinturas in the Spanish capital. It is said that this canvas later commanded more than 500,000 pesetas.

Luna created perhaps his greatest masterpiece, “El Spolarium,” in 1884 when he was only 27 years old. He painted in Rome after having been exposed to Murillo, Michael Angelo, and Raphael. It was a painting which, in exaltation of Rizal described as “that canvas which is not mute,” for it brought to the ears of viewers “the tumult of the throng the cry of slaves, the metallic rattle of the armor on the corpses, the sobs of orphans, the hum of prayers, with as much force and realism as the crash of thunder and the roar of the cataracts, or the fearful and frightful rumble of earthquake.” No wonder his canvas was honored in Rome when it was exhibited at the *Palazzi del’ Expocione de Nazionale*, together with those of famed Spanish painters in that city and opened by no less than the Italian Queen. When exhibited in Madrid in the same year, “Spolarium” won the first of the three gold medal prizes painting.

But Luna was not awarded the much-coveted “prize of honor”, a denial which created a prolonged controversy among art critics and artists all over Spain. However, Spain soon atoned for this denial. No less than King Alfonso XII received Luna in the Royal Palace, together with other artist friends, congratulated him warmly for his triumph, and expressed regret that he had not been awarded the “prize of honor”. This meeting led to a mutual friendship that subsequently served Luna in good stead during his short life of 42 years. It partly influenced the Spanish Senate to commission Luna, to paint a heroic canvas for its Session Hall, at the same time commissioning the famous Spanish painter, Pradilla, last winner of the “prize of honor”, to paint a matching canvas for the hall, thus bracketing them together in the same category. Later on, when Luna was tried in Paris court and again when he was arrested in the

Philippines on returning from abroad shortly after the Cry of Balintawak, Spanish royal intervention saved the great artist.

Full justice came to Luna when no less than the Deputacion Provincial de Barcelona purchased the “Spolarium” for 20,000 pesetas and placed it on permanent exhibition in the Museo Moderno in Barcelona, where it hanged until the last civil war. In 1886 the Ministry of Ultramar of Spain commissioned him to paint “España y las Islas Filipinas” for its Library Hall. In the next year, his painting for the Senate Hall, the heroic “Batalla de Lepanto”, depicting the great Spanish victory over the Turks, was unveiled by no less than the Queen Regent.

Luna harvested other honors. In 1888 his “Las Damas Romanas” won a diploma of honor at the exposition in Munich, Germany. One of the last paintings of Luna, “People and Kings”, was intended for exhibition at the Chicago Exposition, but it was not until 1904, 12 years after he had finished the canvas and five years after his death in Hongkong, that it reached America to be exhibited at the Universal Exposition of St. Louis. There, it won a gold medal.

Thus, Luna reaped honors and acclamations in Italy, Spain, Germany, and America at a time when the Filipino race was relatively unknown, even despised. But perhaps it was because of this fact that Luna and his contemporaries like Rizal, Hidalgo, del Pilar, and others, strived mightily to prove by deeds that their race was in no way inferior to others. Luna, like the others, therefore, served his country not only by proving the abilities of his people in the arts but also by bolstering up their claim to a better political and social life. Talking of the arts of Luna and Resurreccion Hidalgo, Rizal declared in a memorable address in the English Restaurant in Madrid, where the Filipino community celebrated the “Spolarium” success: “Both express the spirit of our social, moral, and political life; humanity subjected to hard trials, humanity unredeemed, reason and aspiration in open flight with prejudice, fanaticism, and injustice . . . if the pen fails them and the printed word does not come to their aid, then the palette and the brush are not only a delight to the eyes but are also eloquent advocates.”

Parenthetically, I feel that we owe Badoc in particular and the nation in general an explanation for the fact that “El Spolarium” has not been brought from Spain to Manila in time for the Juan Luna Centennial Celebration. The truth is that there has been some misunderstanding. The canvas legally belongs to the city of Barcelona which purchased it from Luna. When the Spanish civil war broke out in 1936, it was taken down from the Museo Moderno, together with other work of art, and stowed away in the cellar. After the war it was discovered to have been considerably damaged and to need restoration. It was about this time that Filipino groups started a movement for the transfer of the canvas to Manila.

Although the Spanish Government was sympathetic to the Philippine representation, delay inevitably resulted. The painting was moved from Barcelona in June, 1955, to the National Museum in Madrid, which was to supervise the work of restoration. Although Madrid authorities have announced that the restoration will begin at any time now, this project was considerably delayed because the Museum’s expert decided that, to facilitate the work, the enormous canvas would have to be cut into three sections. This plan was, however, strongly opposed by art-lovers among Filipinos who believe it nothing short of sacrilege. So widespread did the Filipino protest become that the idea of cutting up the great masterpiece was finally given up.

But further details have yet to be settled. Although part of the expense of restoration has been provided for, both the formal transfer of ownership from the Spanish Government to the Philippine Government and the shipment of the canvas to the Philippines still have to be worked out by our Ambassador with the Spanish Minister of Education, Sr. Don Jesus Rubio. It is indeed to be regretted that it has not been possible to bring this great masterpiece to the Philippines in time for today’s celebration.

But here and now, I promise the good people of this town, as well as of the Ilocos region and the rest of the nation, that if I am continued in office, I shall see to it that the works of Luna, including and especially the original “El Spolarium”, and at least copies of his other famous works that cannot be secured, will be collected together and, with other deserving Filipino paintings, hung in a fitting section of the National Museum. Unfortunately, some of the Luna originals, including “Don Miguel Lopez de Legaspi”, were destroyed during the last war. The loss is irreparable. Fortunately, however, “Blood Compact” is safely housed in Malacañan, where it has a place of honor.

You know, of course, that the “Blood Compact” represents early Philippine-Spanish good will and that Sikatuna who is represented as drinking a blood compact with Legaspi, first governor-general of the Philippines, was a chieftain from my native province of Bohol. It is equally interesting to note that modelling for this painting were Trinidad Pardo de Tavera as Legaspi and Jose Rizal as Sikatuna. The painting, therefore, through naturally dear to all Filipinos, is perhaps dearer to the people of the Ilocos and Bohol.

Yet, while it would be a great source of pride and inspiration for our country to bring home the scattered paintings of our great artists and house them together in a worthy museum of arts, I believe that this would be a short-sighted policy. These paintings, exhibited side by side with the works of other famed artists in the great museums of the world, perform for us a great mission of friendship and good will. They bear witness to the high development of our culture. Their technical excellence and beauty are permanent contributions to humanity’s cultural wealth. In the same manner, many of the greatest masterpieces in marble and canvas that were created in Greece and Italy, France and Spain, England and Scandinavia, Germany and America, are housed in museums all over the civilized world. In this sense we have truly given Luna, Hidalgo, and other artists with similar fame to the entire world.

The flame of fame that was Luna’s was first kindled in this community. Your people gave it nourishment and shelter. The young Juan Luna played and dreamed among you, breathed the air you breathe, fed on the products of your farms and waters, sprung from your soil. To you our country owes the birth of this great genius; to you the entire world owes his contributions to the sum total of the beauty that will forever bring inspiration and satisfaction to mankind.

The donation by this municipality of the original Luna family lot as the site for the reconstructed home in which Juan Luna first saw light, is itself an act of patriotism for which the town’s official and inhabitants deserve our gratitude. We have now laid the cornerstone of the future national shrine. It is my hope that its construction will be expedited, that it will be as faithful a reproduction as possible of the original Luna home, and that it will forever serve to encourage and inspire our people to strive, like Luna, for excellence and perfection. When the shrine is completed and opened to the public, I am sure that, not only Filipinos from all parts of the country, but also visitors from abroad who love art will converge upon this hallowed spot to help honor and revere the memory of Juan Luna.

On behalf of our people and of the peoples of the world, I have come here to thank you, your hospitable town, your picturesque province, and all Ilocandia. I am certain that this town, if only out of sheer habit, will continue to produce other great men to follow in the wake of the Lunas. But even if it should never again give birth to another man destined to fame and honor, the fact that Juan Luna uttered his first cry in this very place will forever be sufficient to entitle Badoc to the respect and gratitude of our people and of the world.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1957). President Garcia’s speech on the Luna Centennial celebration at Badoc, Ilocos Norte, Wednesday, October 23, 1957. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 53(20), 7223-7227.

**Speech of President Garcia on the Boy Scout of the Philippines Foundation Day, October 31, 1957**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH ON THE BOY SCOUT OF THE PHILIPPINES FOUNDATION DAY, OCTOBER 31, 1957 AT THE BSP BUILDING**

FELLOW  
MY FRIENDS:

SCOUTERS,

WE are gathered here today to celebrate the twenty-first anniversary of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines. It is a momentous day for you as it is for me, your Honorary President, considering that the approval of Commonwealth Act No. III on October 31, 1936, marked a new era for Scouting in this country.

With the independence of local Scouting we have attained an enviable position in the Scouting world today. Our membership has placed us among the five biggest National Scout Associations and our leaders, volunteer and professional, have brought prestige and glory to our nation and organization. The eyes of Scouts and Scouters all over the world are focused on the Philippines especially because about two years from now, ours will be the privilege and honor of welcoming our brothers from overseas when they come over for the Tenth World Jamboree which will be held in Fort McKinley.

To an individual, the first twenty-one years of life are a period of preparation for his role in the adult world. He goes through a long and arduous training and apprenticeship to the end that he may be fully prepared to play his part as a participating citizen when he attains the age of majority. The state, the home, the church, and the school pool their resources together to insure thoroughness in the training. Other agencies in the community like the Boy Scouts, the Jaycees, the Lions, and the Rotary Clubs supplement and complement this training to enrich the entire program and make it interesting and attractive to the boys. How well a boy responds to this program, determines the kind of man he will be.

In like manner, the local Scout organization has just completed its period of apprenticeship as an independent National Scout Association. It has weathered the storm and the stress of the years and has emerged triumphant over the trials and tribulations of the growing-up process. It has gone through the period with care and decision, and now it stands among its fellow Associations with a stature that commands respect. It behooves all Filipinos, irrespective of whether or not they are affiliated with Scouting, to extend active support to the movement so that its prestige will be maintained to the everlasting glory of our country and people. It is also incumbent upon us who belong to the local Scouting ranks to continue forging ahead so that our contribution to the building of our nation will be more substantial and thus more attractive of public support. Every day should be a challenge for all of us, boy and adult alike, so that we may blaze new horizons of service for the Philippines and for Scouting.

Scouting plays an important role in every civilized community today. Besides its efficacy as a program for character building, it is an effective antidote to juvenile delinquency. At a time like today when the names of teenage gangs are crudely painted on immaculate walls of buildings, gardens, and other structures and broken window and counter panes, mutely attesting to the recurrence of juvenile crimes, such a program as Scouting assumes greater significance. It is an accepted fact that in communities where Scouting is a vital force in the lives of local boys there is no delinquency among young people. By this token, it becomes imperative for communities with serious teenage problems to incorporate Scouting in their program for combating juvenile crimes. And we who are actually in the movement and realize how much Scouting can do for boys, must exert every effort to bring Scouting into the lives of problem boys. Besides doing our bit to solve a social problem, we shall be doing our traditional Good Turn by sharing the benefits we derive from Scouting with others not so providentially fortunate.

Let us also push the frontiers of the movement beyond its present confines. Let us go to the barrios and the settlements in the hinterlands and make our program available to boys in the rural and other less-fortunate areas. There is need for a program like ours to enrich the lonely and drab lives of the boys in these places. In this way, our farm boys will develop greater appreciation for farm life and its opportunities for carrying out our program in a natural setting—the wide, open spaces. The extension of Scouting to these places will perhaps help check the unhealthy tendency of most farm boys to desert their homes and go to cities and other population centers, when they

grow up. For such a thing to come to pass will mean greater economic stability and prosperity for our country and people. And that will be one lasting contribution that we can leave for the coming generations of Filipinos.

On the international level, we also have an important part to play. A little over two months ago, I formally invited, in your behalf, the International Scout Conference to hold the Tenth World Jamboree here in 1959, and it pleases me to know that at the conference in Cambridge, England, last August, that invitation was overwhelmingly accepted.

The selection of the Philippines as the site of one of the most important international Scouting events, at which is expected an attendance of no less than 30,000 Scouts and Scouters from all over the free world, was by no means due to luck or to machinations behind the lines before and during the last International Conference. It was really an official recognition of our performance in the last twenty-one years. It was an accolade bestowed on us, a tribute to the vision of the founders of our organization and the zealous and dedicated labors of our volunteer and professional manpower during the period.

Our achievements have attracted the attention of our brothers Scouts and Scouters from overseas. Those in Far Eastern countries, especially, look up to us for guidance and leadership. It is our moral obligation, therefore, to accelerate our present pace so that we may maintain this interest and live up to the expectations of our brothers in other lands.

As your Honorary President, I share in the pride and happiness that today's celebration has brought on all of you. I commend the founders, the volunteer and professional forces, the Scouts for whom we are dedicating our efforts and labors, and the entire Filipino people who have unstintedly extended assistance and support to us as we strive to insure for our country, in the days to come, a citizenry that will be "physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight."

May the succeeding years be even more glorious ones for the Philippines and for local Scouting, so that Scout training may always be the privilege of every Filipino boy and an important part of our way of life.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

PRESIDENT  
FACULTY  
UNIVERSITY  
MY FRIENDS:

MEMBERS

OF

AND

STUDENTS

OF

VIRATA,  
THE  
PHILIPPINES,

Although I have not been fortunate to be an alumnus of the state university, I am proud to say that my only daughter is an alumna, and her husband is an alumnus, of this great university. To this I may add, I have advisers most of whom are U. P. alumni. I can therefore say that in a manner of speaking, my heart and my mind are U. P. conditioned like yours.

It is timely that we make a sober stock-taking of our economy and its current problems. Thus, we may gain the proper perspective from which to view the work still to be done and chart the course of our future policies if the people so will after November 12 that I be worthy to continue to hold the highest office of the land.

The past few years were ones of record achievements. We have come a long way from 1953. The record shows our national income increased at a steady rate from ₱7 billion in 1953 to ₱8.3 billion at the end of 1956. All important sectors of the economy have advanced in this respect; agricultural income rising from ₱3 billion to ₱3.3 billion; mining from only ₱107 million to ₱141 million; and manufacturing registering a spectacular surge from ₱834 million to ₱1.2 billion. The greater flow today of income from construction, trade, transportation, and communications activity is added testimony that we have travelled a long and vigorous way from the ruins of war. It is not surprising then that a recent United Nations report has described the Philippines as having the highest record of production in this part of the world during the past ten years.

Population has expanded by approximately 6 per cent since 1953, from 21.2 million to our present 22.5 million. Yet, in spite of the fact that we have 1.3 million more people today than in 1953, real income per person has gone up from ₱322 to ₱361, a 12 per cent improvement.



Since 1953, more than 6,197 factories have been established, many of which are producing commodities which we had to import in the past. A milestone and significant precondition to economic development has just been completed—the huge Ambuklao Hydroelectric Plant. Another great source of power, the Binga Hydroelectric Plant, is to be completed. Altogether, our eight hydroelectric projects form a base of power supply for industries now in operation, or which may be set up in the future and multiply the industrial potential of our country.

During the past four years we have seen the total goods and services produced domestically increase in real terms by 17.4 per cent. This development was generated by a phenomenal expansion of 13 per cent in mining, 47 per cent in manufacturing, and 25 per cent in agriculture. We also witnessed the establishment of almost 533 “new and necessary” industries granted tax-exemption privileges by the government under Republic Act 901, together with the expansion of old industries. Manufacturing employment also rose by 7 per cent during this period of progression.

Government institutions like the RFC, the PNB, and the ACCFA expanded the area of their operations to facilitate the channeling of the savings of the economy to production. Complementarily, private banks not only increased their respective volumes of business, but also their numbers and branches.

**The fact that the Philippines is still far from producing all the needs of the country underscores the continuing importance of foreign trade to the economy. There are certain consumer goods which we cannot now produce or hope to produce in the near future, that are nevertheless basic to maintain standards of living and public health. Among these are medicines and certain essential foodstuffs.** We also have to import machinery and some of the raw materials required by our domestic industries.

Since, however, our purchasing power abroad is limited by the size of our export earnings and our international reserve, the foreign exchange available to us from these two sources must be used as judiciously as possible to secure the maximum benefit to the economy. That we have succeeded to a certain extent in this can be gathered from the specific economic gains previously cited and the steady change in the pattern of our imports since 1949 when the government undertook to manage the country’s foreign exchange resources directly.

Of our total imports in 1949, 47 per cent comprised consumer commodities, a large portion of which represented luxury items and non-essentials; while capital goods and raw materials for industry made up the remaining 53 per cent. Today, only 23 per cent of our imports are consumer items, a large part of them being essential commodities. Industrial goods, on the other hand, comprise 77 per cent of total imports, a concrete evidence of the strong emphasis we have placed on industrialization.

Another favorable trend is exhibited in the decline of imports from ₱1.2 billion in 1949 to ₱1 billion in 1956 while our exports expanded from ₱508 million to ₱902 million. We also find that Philippine trade has diversified considerably since 1949. In that year almost 78 per cent of our total trade was centered on one country, the United States. Today, while our total trade has expanded from ₱1.7 billion in 1949 to ₱1.9 billion, we now channel 41 per cent of it to Europe, Central and South America, and some Asian countries. This geographical broadening of our trade is an encouraging sign of growing stability and lessened dependence on a single country as the source of our imports and the market for our exports.

In the main, our policy and efforts have been guided by the economic plan adopted at the start of the Nacionalista Administration which the late President Magsaysay announced on March 20, 1954, updated by the National Economic Council on January 3, 1957. The Administration fully realized that the problem of mobilizing the resources necessary to bring about the accelerated development was a difficult and complex task, but nevertheless, a task that had to be done if the country was to have an economic independence compatible with its political sovereignty. In the attainment of this objective the Administration has resorted to the use of national credit to cover the inevitable gap inherent in our underdeveloped country between the growth of output and voluntary savings and the rise in over-all demand generated by consumption and development expenditure. The development rate of the magnitude experienced in this country cannot, however, but unleash inflationary pressures, and a major task of the Administration had been to prevent such pressures from jeopardizing its development efforts and living standards of the masses. Yet, in spite of the inflationary implications of the program, domestic prices have been kept within reasonable levels up to 1956. For instance, using 1955 prices as a point of reference, the consumer price index of

Manila, which reflects a consolidation of prices for food, clothing, house-rent, fuel, light, water, and several other consumption items, displayed relative stability. In 1949 the index was 101.6 points, and by 1956 it had settled down to 102.7 points after slipping down from the 1952 peak of 106.1 points. Such a phenomenon in prices, despite the existence of inflationary stresses, can only be explained by the drain in our foreign exchange reserves. In other words, inflation has not evidenced itself in terms of sharp domestic price increases, since the added demand generated by development expenditures were partially satisfied by increased supply of imports.

Like any other country undergoing development, we have paid the price of progress to a higher level of domestic productivity at some sacrifice to our international resources, especially without having resorted to substantial foreign assistance. The question of why our reserve has continued to decline in spite of the institution of controls finds an answer in the increasing tempo of development imports over the past years. The reserve has not been dissipated. The pattern of importation cited earlier clearly shows that it has been increasingly put to use to purchase the machinery and the tools of our industrialization without which no satisfactory solution to the problems of poverty and unemployment in our country would ever be possible. In addition, the reserve has also been used to import essential consumer items to stabilize domestic prices. However, we cannot continue to draw upon our dwindling reserve indefinitely at the present pace if the international value of the peso is not to be undermined and our development program to be completely set back at its crucial stage.

Complicating our problem of reserves are the inflationary pressures generated abroad which are reflected in a general rise of import costs of the industrial and consumer goods that we buy from foreign countries. For the same volume of imports, we now have to pay more dollars than we did last year.

In view of the developments abroad and the problems inherent to our economic progress at home, we must retrench and consolidate our resources so that the gains we have achieved will not be jeopardized. We must admit that we are now confronted with certain problems which are a natural consequence of our unprecedented growth during the last few years, and of our compelling desire to keep on growing. However, we must also remember that while these problems exist, our economy is today better balanced and, in physical terms, is in a better position to meet them domestically, and also to attract foreign assistance in the form of long-term loans and new investments.

Economic problems are not solved in a day, and foreign assistance unfortunately does not jump at the immediate back of opportunity. We must therefore face the fact that we shall have to resort to our own devices for a time if we are to continue our development. It is clear that we cannot continue to draw on our international reserve at the present rate. This will have to be slackened to a point where our exports may possibly begin to pay for our basic import demands. But a slackening for a time of our consumption of dollars would mean either cutting down our imports of machinery and raw materials—or sacrificing more of our consumer imports in favor of the industrials. The cause of economic progress constrains us to take the latter course, even while efforts are now being exerted to explore sources of new capital from abroad. There is no other road to economic development than a compulsory rise in the share of the national income which is withheld from consumption and devoted, instead, to investment. This implies a policy of voluntary austerity on the part of our people since we are a democratic nation.

However, we understand how difficult it is in a free and democratic economy to persuade people even for a short period of time to give up the level of consumption to which they have long been accustomed—in exchange for the prospects of a brighter future. The cultural and social resistances to be overcome are tremendous. Yet I know that there is an inherent reasonableness and love of country in our people, and if they fully understand the issues they will be willing to close ranks for this common cause.

On the domestic side, the Administration has tried to counteract the prevailing situation fraught with considerable inflationary potential by tightening its credit, fiscal, and import policies, notwithstanding the effect this would have on certain groups and interests during this election year. The credit policy we pursued was one of general restraint without prejudice to the function and progress of essential productive sectors of the economy. During the early part of the year, our credit policy intensified previous selective control policies directed to meet the genuine requirements of trade and industry while ruling out the use of credit for non-productive and speculative activities.

So far, I have elaborated on what has been accomplished and what has taken place in our economy in recent months. The question that now poses itself is: What would be the direction of the policies we should now adopt in the light of the shift in the underlying factors of our development?

If we are to sustain our economic progress without retrogressing into stagnation, I would like to call for your full cooperation in adhering to the following guiding principles for action:

1. Self-sufficiency in primary foodstuffs.

We must attain self-sufficiency at least in the basic foods, especially in staple crops like rice and corn. Blessed with vast expanses of fertile land, we have the basic means to stop the recurring food shortages which the country is periodically forced to satisfy through importation.

2. The fuller utilization of our natural resources in economic development.

Our main hope of providing more employment to our people lies in the fuller utilization of our abundant natural resources. It is essential that existing as well as new industries make greater use of our available raw materials and develop those that can be produced locally. We should, therefore, give continued emphasis to industries and enterprises that will utilize more of our available materials and resources, as against those which are largely dependent on imported raw materials.

3. The continued stabilization of the fiscal position of the Government. We should pursue vigorously the study of the aspects of our fiscal organization with a view to having our government revenues continuously meet the increasing demands and requirements of public service. We must finance the total government sector by a sound and judicious balance between taxation and public borrowings, restricting the use of government bonds to high priority public projects.

4. More redirection of available credit resources to immediately productive enterprises.

We must direct all our credit resources to enterprises that are immediately productive and could bring into the market within a short time goods needed by our people. In this way, the demand generated by our development projects will be mopped up and the inflationary pressures will be minimized.

5. Expansion of our exports.

We must seek to boost our dollar earnings by exploring means of expanding the volume and variety of our exports as well as their markets abroad.

6. Increased domestic processing of local raw materials. The approach most likely to yield immediate results in augmenting the foreign exchange earnings and work opportunities of the country lies in more domestic processing of local raw materials whose production or extraction has already undergone some development. Generally these materials for local manufacturing will emancipate the Philippines from being a mere raw-material exporting country.

7. More efficient utilization of our foreign resources.

We must try to get the optimum advantage out of our limited foreign exchange resources by directing their usage to those industries that could contribute most to our national income. Over-crowding in many industries needing imported capital equipment, investing in many lines of production not so basic to our development, and importation of non-essential consumption goods are unnecessary drains on our foreign exchange.

8. Greater consumption of locally produced goods.

We must try to use more locally produced items instead of those imported from abroad. We must help our own manufacturers by channeling more and more of our demands towards locally manufactured goods and evidencing pride in our own products.

9. Attraction of foreign investments, assistance, and financing.

We must concretize our thinking on our foreign investment policy and laws and strive to keep the proper investment climate of our country in order to attract bona-fide foreign investors.

10. Full exploitation of foreign trade instruments other than controls.

We must fully utilize the instruments of trade diplomacy open to use in the form of trade agreements and intergovernmental financial arrangements in order to secure the best markets and terms for our trade, together with the initiation of measures which would lead to a gradual lifting of our own controls and restrictions.

My Friends: I have presented before you the true picture of the state of our economy. I have shown you what the Administration has done to promote our economic development by implementing an economic program, and what more can be done to bring about the fulfillment of the dream of every Filipino, which is to make our people happy, prosperous, and progressive.

You know that our economic strides have been made possible by this Administration which has dedicated itself to the service of the country. I am sure that you all would like the progress we have achieved to continue unimpeded until we have reached the pinnacle of our aspirations. We cannot afford to stand still. We cannot retrogress. We should keep in power the Nacionalista Administration, the Administration which has served the people faithfully and well.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**Message of President Garcia at a general convocation in the University of the East, November 7, 1957**

**ADDRESS DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT GARCIA AT A GENERAL CONVOCATION IN THE UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST, THURSDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 7, 1957**

PRESIDENT  
DISTINGUISHED  
RESPECTED                      OFFICIALS,                      EMPLOYEES                      AND                      DALUPAN,  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST,                      VISITORS,  
STUDENTS

MY COUNTRYMEN,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I AM grateful to President Francisco Dalupan and other officials of the University of the East for their invitation to me to appear on this enlightened and progressive campus. They are pioneers in many aspects of education, such as the establishment of the non-profit Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center. Their policy of inviting candidates for President to speak before your important community is equally commendable.

It is of utmost importance that the people know the considerations involved in an election, and one of the best places to clarify them is a university campus. The faculty members, employees, and students not only come from all parts of the country but also are highly qualified to enlighten others.

The freedom of expression is an indispensable appurtenance of democracy, but the ability of the electorate to judge determines the quality of the democracy that they can have and deserve. With the election only five days away, it is time to shift the grain from the chaff, to separate the gold from the dross, to distinguish between truth and falsehood, to know what is fraud and what is fact. This task calls for plain speaking; therefore, my friends and countrymen, I shall today speak to you plainly, straight from the shoulder and direct from the heart.

In the confusion of the raging political struggle, our people will not only need information, judgment, and patriotism—they will also need the guidance of prayer. We should pray that in this election, passions, prejudices, and emotions will remain within the bounds of those restraints of civilization which have taken mankind many centuries of wisdom and nobility to build. And in the exercise of our right to choose our public officials within the limits of the law and of the human decencies, let us pray that we shall be vouchsafed by the Divine Providence the light that will guide us to choose the best men and the best administration. In this objective we have, I think, no quarrel. Whatever may be our differences of opinion, I believe we are patriots and Filipinos enough to so hope and act that our Republic will endure and achieve prosperity, greatness, and happiness.

As you well know, there are five candidates for President. Before the Electoral Commission weeded out some of the more obviously untenable candidates, however, there had been nearly twenty.

The Electoral Commission deserves to be commended for simplifying to some extent our electorate's problem. Instead of scrutinizing the background and circumstances of about twenty men, a voter now has only four or five candidates to compare and choose from. Tonight, I propose to carry the simplification further by examining the remaining candidates on the bases of the three P's of politics—promises, party, and personality.

Platforms, inevitably embroidered with promises, are an important part of politics. The wisdom and practicality of the program of government offered by a candidate and his party are among the keys to his possible success or failure in office. Therefore, it is part of our task to scrutinize at least the important planks, together with the promises built around them.

Many of the planks and promises of presidential candidates are built around our economic problems. We all aspire for a substantial degree of industrialization, we are all concerned with inflation and unemployment, and we all seek prosperity.

Let us start with the economic formulas of Mr. Manahan and his Progressive Party. In the words of his spokesman, Mr. Manahan is for accelerating “the pace of national development” in order to bring about “a rapid general advance.” Now, that certainly is desirable. It is also easy to say. Evidently aiming at the same objective, Mr. Manahan’s vice-presidential candidate advocates the printing of money and the banning of imports. These are concrete propositions, but I do not believe our people will want to repeat our sad experiences with Mickey Mouse money under the Japanese. I am also certain that the countries whose exports we ban will immediately retaliate and also ban our exports. At best, these proposals are uncomfortably similar to the penaceas we have just mentioned.

Senator Recto, living up to his literary reputation, has prepared and published the most elaborate platform. But in posing as a nationalist, he ties himself up in knots of contradiction. He would have the country’s economy completely industrialized, yet he would ban foreign investments and foreign technicians. As you well know, industrialization is the result of creative integration of raw materials, capital, skilled labor, and management. Other nations have accelerated their industrialization by welcoming foreign investments and foreign technicians. If we must, by ourselves, first build our own capital formation and train our skilled laborers and industrial managers, it will be many decades before we shall be able to attain any substantial degree of industrialization. Yet, Mr. Recto’s statements imply that it will not be later than the week after the delivery of his first state-of-the-nation message to the Congress!

Mr. Yulo, on the other hand, would create Canlubangs everywhere in the country. Canlubang is Mr. Yulo’s hacienda in Laguna of over 7,500 hectares—an extent of land bigger than an ordinary municipality. In order to create Canlubangs in other places, there must be landlords as well-heeled as Mr. Yulo or as smart as he is in borrowing millions of pesos from government institutions. I am afraid, however, that no existing government financing agency would have enough millions to lend. Mr. Yulo, would, by this means, promote what he calls “small-men prosperity.” It could only be landless prosperity entirely dependent “on the landlord’s benevolence.

Since the year 1902 when Governor William Howard Taft made a special trip to the Vatican to negotiate the purchases by our Government of the so-called friar lands with His Holiness, the Pope, we have been slowly following the policy of breaking up big landed estates, thus increasing the number of our landowners and broadening our middle class. Mr. Yulo would reverse the policy. He would have us go back to the time of the *encomenderos*. Yet our recent history tells us that the *encomienda* system was the root of the Filipino discontent and despair that exploded into the revolutions against Spain.

There are other items in the PPP, NCP, and LP promises and claims. Mr. Manahan makes the ridiculous claim that he alone can continue the rural reconstruction program of President Magsaysay. Mr. Recto, spouting nationalistic slogans, would completely revise Philippine-American relations. Mr. Yulo, on the other hand, insists he is the only one worthy of America’s friendship. All are for honesty and integrity in the government.

Mr. Manahan would oust what he calls “professional politicians,” for in no other way can he justify his being a novice in politics and government. Turning out the “professional politicians” would naturally leave the government in the hands of “political hams.” Mr. Yulo would insist on private morality as the only basis for public morality; but Senators Recto and Tañada, both leading members of the bar, claim that Mr. Yulo’s ₱4 million loan from the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation, with which he acquired Canlubang, and his failure to settle his income tax are at least immoral, though they do not specify whether they constitute private or public immorality.

It is obvious that, in this election as in every other election, promises are the cheapest commodity. My rivals, either out of ignorance of practical problems of government or of the unscrupulous desire to snare votes, seem to be forever concocting catch-all promises.

Let us turn our attention to the political parties. Democracy, except perhaps in the smallest of nations, depends for its practical success on political parties. Only with the assistance of well-organized parties can an election campaign

be properly conducted and the administration of the government effectively and efficiently performed. It takes parties to sponsor issues and stimulate their popular discussions and at the same time get voters to vote. A president without majority support in Congress would be a frustrated chief executive. A Congress majority without a president would be almost equally useless and futile. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that a candidate or a set of candidates seeking the popular mandate to administer the government have a party able to win popular support and capable of assuming the great responsibility of administration.

The Progressive Party is a new improvised party. It grew out of the ambition of one man abetted by a few other who seek public office. It held no convention to nominate candidates. On the contrary, the candidates merely proclaimed themselves, then went before the people to ask for support for themselves. According to the records of the Electoral Commission, the Progressive Party does not have a complete set of candidates. While it has candidates for president and vice-president and eight candidates for senator, it has only 31 candidates for the 192 seats in the Lower House. Even if all its candidates were elected, the Party would have so few senators and congressmen that it could not legislate. Verily as a party, the Progressives need a lot of progressing before they can be entrusted with the administration of the government.

The Nationalist Citizens Party, like the Progressive Party, had a candidate for president before it was conceived and had any other candidates and voters. Holding no convention, its candidates are self-nominated. Also like the Progressive Party, the Nationalist Citizens Party has candidates for president and vice-president and eight candidates for senators, but only 43 candidates for representatives. Even if all its candidates were elected, it would be doomed to frustration. It is not sufficiently organized to be safely entrusted with the effective and sufficient administration of the government.

Should our people make the mistake of electing to office either the Progressive Party or the Nationalist Citizens Party, we would have a government paralysis worse than in France; while a French government crisis can always be solved in a matter of days or months, such a government crisis in the Philippines would last for at least four years—four disastrous and dangerous years.

The Liberal Party began in the same manner—around the ambition of one man—but won the elections of 1947 and 1949. It gained sudden ascendancy because during and after the war, the Nacionalista Party was disorganized. But by its own acts, the Liberal Party forfeited both its position in Philippine politics and the support of the people. As everybody knows, it won the 1949 election with such ruthlessness, highlighted by the torture-killing of Moises Padilla in Mr. Yulo's own province of Occidental Negros, that in the 1951 election the people began to withdraw the popular mandate. During the Liberal administration of the government of eight years, which were unfortunately the first years of the Republic, its abuses and its corruption, its inefficiency and paralysis, became gradually so unendurable that the Party was completely and emphatically turned out of office in 1953. Then, during the administration of the late President Magsaysay, its few congressmen, led by none other than Mr. Yulo and Mr. Macapagal, instead of functioning as a vigilant minority, offered to support the re-election of President Magsaysay and other Nacionalista officials, provided the incumbent congressmen were not actively opposed by the Nacionalista Party, and provided Mr. Yulo became a Malacañang adviser. This is the absolute bottom in opportunism, a shameless and conscienceless abdication of public trust.

While, in this manner, the Liberal leaders were plotting the death of their own party, only Mr. Antonio Quirino was fighting for its survival. Spending his own time and money, he visited every province, almost every municipality and thousands of barrios. And in order to have a reason for taking the Party's leadership, he declared himself a candidate for its presidential nomination. Mr. Yulo, Mr. Macapagal, Mr. Marcos, and other leading Liberals watched Mr. Quirino's efforts with profound indifference, haughty tolerance, and downright disdain. It was only after President Magsaysay had met sudden death and the deal therefore, had fallen through, that, elbowing out Quirino, they began frantically to revive the Liberal Party, which they had deliberately abandoned to die.

And Mr. Yulo believing that, for him, it was then or never, took hold of the Party like a Nazi dictator. He called a national nominating convention, but it was obvious to all that it was a mere formality to ratify what he had already decided. He alone was nominated for President, he alone chose the candidate for vice-president, he alone picked the candidates for senators, and he alone selected the candidates for congressmen. For it was his strategy to have for himself the inspectors of the Liberal Party but to discard the Liberals who had built the Party—the Quirinos, the

Avelinos, the Imap Pecsons, the Lovinas, and many others. So it is that the Liberal Party is no longer worthy of, and equal to, the responsibility of administering the government, and the people will commit a grave error if they ever again entrust to it that responsibility.

Just a few words on the personalities of the candidates—their preparation and experience, their ability in public administration, and their fitness for political leadership.

Mr. Manahan has been going up and down the country claiming that he alone can continue the work of President Magsaysay, that he is the late President's ordained successor. I fear that in pretending to be most respectful of the memory of our late beloved statesman, Mr. Manahan is really being disrespectful. If he implies that he was groomed by President Magsaysay as his successor, he unjustly pictures RM as the antithesis of the thorough-going democrat that he was. In a democracy where the people elect their public officials, there are no hereditary public offices. Therefore, it is inconceivable that President Magsaysay would designate an heir to his exalted office. An avowed candidate for re-election, it is not logical that he would be thinking of his successor—nothing could be further from his thoughts. But if, in joke and jest, he might have mentioned a certain "Manny" as the man to carry on after him, it could be no other than Senator "Manny" Pelaez, who was close to him and whose advice he valued and often sought.

When a man-whose experience in the public service is limited to investigations such as performed by police and detectives and to a brief administration of the customs mainly for the purposes of weeding out alleged corrupt officials—foists himself as a worthy successor to Ramon Magsaysay, he either inflates himself beyond reason or deflates the late President without mercy. For RM was not so inexperienced in the public service. During the war, he had bravely led a band of guerrillas as big as a full division. After the war, he became military governor of Zambales following the governorship, he was elected to the Congress in which, with distinction, he served as chairman of the Veterans' Committee, making several trips to Washington, where he obtained substantial benefits for Filipino veterans. This was followed by his distinguished service as secretary of national defense, highlighted by his extraordinary success in breaking the back of the Hukbalahap rebellion. As preparation for the presidency, RM possessed one of the best-balanced, successful records in government.

I am certain the overwhelming majority of our people will agree with me that Mr. Manahan is a well-intentioned young man who is merely hypnotized by the whizz of his soaring ambition.

Senator Recto is a man who deserves respect and admiration. A poet and an outstanding lawyer, he is one of our great intellectuals. President of the Constitutional Convention, Supreme Court Justice, and a member of the Legislative Branch of our Government for many years, he is primarily famed for his vigor and persistence as a dissenter and "fiscalizer".

I hope therefore that, instead of making him President, the people will continue him in the Senate, where his special political talent can continue in full play. I hope further that, instead of perpetuating many parties, the people will continue the two-party system contemplated by the Constitution, if only to avoid the political instability and frequent political crisis which are the bane of France. When the election is over, it will be to the best interest of the country that the opposition congressmen and senators who may be elected, including Liberals and regardless of party, rally around Senator Recto to constitute a substantial opposition party under his experienced leadership.

I must state, however, that Senator Recto's nationalism is strange. As a people, we have gone through the complete gamut of nationalism from armed revolution at the turn of the century to the extreme opposite of wishing to give up our nationality through annexation to America as advocated by the Federal Party. Upon its organization and victory, the Nacionalista Party charted a new nationalism based on friendship and cooperation with America on terms of mutual respect and mutual equality and aimed at the independence and sovereignty of the Philippines. This policy has been successful. It was the basis of our success in expanding our self-government and in obtaining our independence, and it is the only tenable basis of our continued success as a free and sovereign Republic. In a world menaced by the relentless and ruthless Russian policy of collecting satellites out of small nations, our security can be safeguarded only by allying ourselves with the one nation that has the strength to contain Communism and therefore to protect the sovereignty of other nations, including ourselves.



The resurgence of nationalism in the rest of Asia is a different story. It is *mainly* a reaction to European imperialism, aggravated by Japan's slogan of conquest, "Asia for Asians." While we were actively assisted by the United States in our nationalistic progress toward independence, other Asian countries were oppressed or left to their own devices and either granted their freedom grudgingly by their masters or continue to suffer today under the yoke of colonialism. Historically, Philippine nationalism long ago passed the present stage of Asian nationalism. We are a free and sovereign country with our former mentor, the United States, our closest friend. As a sovereign nation, we seek the friendship of all nations without impairing those historic ties that have strengthened our nationality, contributed to our culture, and benefitted our freedom. Senator Recto, in advocating that we revert to the present stage of Asian nationalism, is verily an anachronistic nationalist.

Ex-Speaker Jose Yulo and Senator Recto have something in common: they both have failed to keep in tune with the times. While Mr. Recto is an anachronistic nationalist, Mr. Yulo is a hopeless social throwback.

In his public and private career Mr. Yulo has shown two contradictory complexes. As Malacañang technical adviser, secretary of justice, and the last, speaker of the National Assembly, he was well-trained in political obedience. President Quezon was finally so nauseated with the subservience of the National Assembly under Speaker Yulo that he used this fact as an argument for amending the Constitution to return the bicameral legislature. A unicameral legislature, President Quezon declared, can be easily controlled by the President, leading to dictatorship.

After the war, Mr. Yulo exhibited another complex. Having acquired Canlubang with borrowed RFC millions, he became a great landowner, lording it over 7,500 hectares of territory and 14,000 cowering tenants. It was in this lordly guise that he called the recent convention of the Liberal Party, had himself nominated as its candidate for President, and then himself handpicked all the other candidates in the Liberal Party ticket.

It is difficult to determine whether Mr. Yulo proposes to become President as the man trained in political obedience or as the strutting landlord multi-millionaire. If in the first guise, Mr. Yulo would not have the competence necessary to be President and national leader; if in the second guise, we may well expect the worst kind of dictatorship—the worst kind he is out to make up for previous subservience.

But whether puppet or dictator, Jose Yulo, with his Canlubang mentality, is a social throwback. He would return landlordism and all its evils to their fullest bloom, a discredited system that we have been trying to uproot for the last half century. Yet he has the effrontery to declare that only he can save the country from economic ruin!

In any case, Mr. Yulo is not unknown to the electorate. As a candidate in 1953, he offered himself to the people for both the positions of Vice-President and President, since, under the Constitution, President Quirino was qualified to serve only two years. The overwhelming majority of our voters emphatically rejected Mr. Yulo for both positions!

I should now like to say a few words about former Judge Quirino, another Liberal candidate for President. He occupies a peculiar position in this campaign in that while he carried the entire ticket of the Liberal Party, he is himself his candidate for President instead of Mr. Yulo. In a way, therefore, he heads a splinter Liberal Party, yet in fact his party is not completely distinct and separate so that it may be better described as a hangnail—a painful hangnail—in the Liberal toe.

I hope that it will not be considered immodest of me to say a few words at this juncture about the Nacionalista Party and its planks and promises, its administration, and my own claim to continue in the presidency.

Under President Magsaysay, many of the planks and promises of the Nacionalista Party were considerably implemented. This is true with respect to the national economy; it is true with respect to rural reconstruction and the further democratization of the country; and it is true with respect to foreign relations. Under our five-year economic plan, which has been and is periodically revised, adjusted, and up-dated as circumstances warrant, we have promoted industrialization, stimulated production, created employment, and started the country on a broad, long-range economic advance. By coordinating import and dollar controls, credit grants, and application of the law on new and necessary industries, we have seen the establishment of nearly 800 shops and factories capitalized at over ₱4 million and employing more than 60,000 workers. Agriculture has not been neglected. Through the ACCFA and

the FACOMA's the rural banks, the rural development program—including the barrio councils, the construction of roads, irrigation systems, schools, and artesian wells—our farmers are improving socially and economically, increasing their production and getting better prices for their products.

The Magsaysay program for the reconstruction of rural areas is well-known. It is integrated effort to awaken and build up rural pride and initiative through education, sanitation, public works, scientific farming, easy credit, cooperatives, and other measures. This program is being promoted and expanded to its logical limits to the extent permitted by our finances. I believe implicitly in this work as a means of extending economic and social justice to about 75 per cent of our population and as a necessary basis for the completion of the nation's democratization.

Just a word now about graft and corruption. After the Liberal Party was booted out of office in 1953, mainly for its scandalous immorality and inefficiency, President Magsaysay made honesty and integrity the keynote of the Nacionalista administration. He launched a campaign of prosecuting the rascals, whether in the past administration or in his own. As a result, the corrupt, the dishonest, and the torture-killers of Moises Padilla and their ilk were prosecuted and jailed. The Magsaysay standard of honesty and integrity in the public service is being upheld and will be upheld to the fullest measure.

The Nacionalista administration has restored the people's confidence in our government and in the democratic system, which the corrupt and ineffectual Liberal administration had reduced into dregs of doubts and hate. Our administration's farsighted conduct of foreign affairs has likewise rehabilitated the confidence of the world in our Republic.

From the discredited Liberal administration, we inherited a confusion of foreign policies. During and shortly after the war, President Quezon and later President Osmeña forged the traditional Nacionalista policy of friendship with America into an even stronger basis of postwar cooperation. The brave and patriotic role of our armed forces and guerrilla fighters earned the gratitude of America and her allies. Part of America's gratitude took material form, such as the war damage payments, the benefits to our veterans, the materiel to our armed forces. The Roxas administration rode on the crest of this good will, but the Quirino administration foundered in it. The surplus goods, import control and dollar allocation scandals, the inefficiency in planning and implementing the use of the ICA aid—and PHILCUSA's head was none other than Mr. Yulo—climaxed into a pointless anti-American policy during President's Quirino's last years—a policy Mr. Yulo supported as President Quirino's adviser and candidate for Vice-President.

Under President Magsaysay, full Philippine-American cooperation was re-established. The Bell Trade Act was revised. Friendship and cooperation with the free nations of Asia, Africa, and Europe were broadened. A charter member of the United Nations, the Philippines has played its part and has fulfilled its obligations in the common task of discovering and establishing the basis of world peace. The Philippine Republic's international prestige—the value set on our friendship and the faith shown in our stability and permanence—is today at a higher peak than at any previous time.

I have had a humble part in this work as Vice-President and Secretary of Foreign Affairs. Were it not for this fact and President Magsaysay's lamentable death, I would not be a candidate for President today. But when, through the operation of our Constitution and the infinite wisdom of Divine Providence, I succeeded to the presidency, I had little choice but to run for President in this election. The opportunity to serve the nation in this capacity came to me unsolicited, but once it came it would have been unpatriotic and cowardly on my part not to seek the extension of the opportunity.

The challenge of the situation to me was obvious. Already campaigning up and down the country, criticizing and indicting the administration of which I was a part, were two determined candidates for President—Senator Recto and Judge Quirino. After Ramon Magsaysay, I was most called upon to defend our record. I was No. 2 in the Magsaysay team and succeeded him by the explicit vote of the people.

More than merely defend the Magsaysay administration, I was most called upon to carry on. During the last eight months, I have done just this under the most unfavorable circumstances, being the converging target of the self-

serving attacks of other presidential candidates. Because of these attacks and because at least two of my rival candidates claim to be the new Magsaysay, I hope you will not think me immodest, if I say a few words in my personal behalf.

Practically all my matured years, 33 of them to be exact, have been devoted to the public service. I have been a public school teacher, representative, provincial governor, senator, vice-president, secretary of foreign affairs, and President. I think I can say truthfully that in each position I have made an honest and conscientious record and that my public service is at least well-rounded and well-balanced.

Unlike Messrs. Manahan and Recto, who nominated themselves, and Mr. Yulo, who was openly accused of rigging the Liberal convention, I was freely and overwhelmingly chosen over several rivals by the Nacionalista Party. It can therefore be said that I am the only presidential candidate in this election who has been democratically nominated. If our people value the democratic processes for being conducive to the people's security and to the supremacy of the popular will, they should not lose sight of this singular fact.

I also wish to warn our people that in this election, at least two candidates have placed their faith in the power of public relations, backed by money, to fool the people. As used in practical politics, this new scourge of democracy places the tools of modern advertising behind the Communist techniques of the Big Lie and the Smear Tactics. In its lowest terms, the process consists of three steps: First, half-truths and lies damaging to the prestige, reputation, and character of an individual are deliberately manufactured, the bigger they are the better; second, these lies and half-truths are repeated and dinned into the people's consciousness through the media of mass information, the oftener the better; and, third, some of the smear inevitably sticks, just as mud sticks even on the cleanest surfaces. You have all been witnesses to this deliberate character assassination over the radio, in print, in whispered words.

Everyone who truly values democracy should pray that the will of our people will not be subverted in this election by the triumph of men so cynical and ruthless that they would seize public office by the use of anti-democratic Communist techniques.

May I now briefly summarize the pertinent facts of the 1957 presidential race. On the basis of planks and promises, the Progressive Party and Mr. Manahan are vague where they should be explicit. Where they are explicit, such as in their proposals to print money and ban imports, they are amateurish, impractical, and absurd. The Nationalist Citizens Party and Mr. Recto are confused and contradictory, as in their envisioning fast industrialization by banning foreign investment, and out of tune with the times as in their nationalism. The Liberal Party and Mr. Yulo are reactionary, as in their foisting Canlubang and discredited landlordism as the key to the solution of our economic problems. The Nacionalista administration, on the other hand, has passed the stage of promises and is presently achieving the universally-desired objectives of rural uplift, economic development focused on industrialization, expanding employment, growing prosperity, and the goodwill of other nations.

On the basis of party, the Progressive and the Nationalist Citizens Parties are incomplete, embryonic parties born of the personal ambitions of their founders. With incomplete slates of candidates, they are not prepared by organization and experience to take over the most important task of administering the government. The Liberal Party did administer the nation from 1946 to 1953. During this time, many Liberal officials and their friends enriched themselves, the Hukbalahap rebellion exploded, government business was virtually paralyzed by indecision, American aid was dissipated, and the national prestige abroad dropped to its lowest level. The Liberal Party made of the first eight years of the Republic eight lost years. Thrown out of power for its unpardonable sins, the Party has since done nothing to win back and deserve the popular trust.

The Nacionalista administration, for its long and efficient service, its having successfully conducted the campaign for independence, its having largely made up for the errors and shortcomings of the Liberal administration, and its having successfully launched a comprehensive program of national progress, deserves to be continued and to be awarded the people's new and overwhelming Vote of confidence.

On the basis of experience, character, and personality, I am constrained to be frank and state that Mr. Manahan, completely hypnotized by his inordinate ambition, is set to swim beyond his depth, and the people should do him the

favor of keeping him from drowning; Mr. Recto, the dissenter and oppositionist, the eminent lawyer and anachronistic nationalist, is the best man for the position of minority leader, perhaps as president of a consolidated opposition party, and the people should keep him in the Senate. As for Mr. Yulo, the champion borrower of the RFC, lord of Canlubang and throwback from our sad and regrettable past, able to acquire the election inspectors of the Liberal Party but unable to wash his hands of its many sins—the man I overwhelmingly defeated in 1953 by a vote of 2,515,265 against 1,483,802—has shown no reason whatsoever why the people should change their mind about him, and should be sent back to Canlubang and given time to wake up to the fact that the Government has been implementing a definite policy of breaking up the big landed estates since 1902.

I wish to reiterate my gratitude to President Dalupan and the University of the East for inviting me here, and to all of you as well as to those who may be listening by radio for hearing me out. Your interest in public affairs and your attentiveness to what I have had to say lead me to hope that you will use your right to vote to strengthen democracy in our country by entrusting the next administration of our Government and the guardianship of the nation to the political party that is best prepared and the candidate for President who is most fit and deserving.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**Address of President Garcia on the occasion of the opening of the SEATO Seminar on Countering Communist Subversion, November 26, 1957**

**ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT CARLOS P. GARCIA ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING OF THE SEATO SEMINAR ON COUNTERING COMMUNIST SUBVERSION, DELIVERED IN BAGUIO CITY, NOVEMBER 26, 1957**

MR.  
DELEGATES,  
MY FRIENDS:

CHAIRMAN,

DISTINGUISHED

GUESTS,

IT GIVES me profound pleasure to address this SEATO Seminar on Countering Communist Subversion—the first international seminar of its kind to be held in this area. I understand that the delegations now present are composed not only of security experts in the military field, but also of civic and political leaders who have been hand-picked to represent their respective countries in this seminar. This is significant and noteworthy, because it underscores the growing appreciation by the various Treaty member-nations of the complex nature of the Communist threat and of the correspondingly varied measures that must be undertaken to counter that threat.

Distinguished delegates, it has been my privilege to represent my country in past conferences of the SEATO. The last time was in Canberra in March, whence I had to return to the Philippines immediately upon receiving the sad news of the untimely death of our beloved leader—an outstanding friend of the Free World—President Ramon Magsaysay.

While still mourning the loss of a beloved leader, our people were called upon to exercise one of the fundamental rights, and one of the primary responsibilities they have imposed upon themselves as free men—the right and obligation of suffrage. But it is the beauty of Democracy that howsoever serious the test, a people determined to continue to be free always could rise equal to the challenge of the time. Thus, in the case of the Filipino people, not only did free processes attendant to the Constitutional transfer of governmental authority take their due course in a most orderly manner, but our people also succeeded, a few months later, in electing their national leaders with commendable sobriety, wisdom, and decorum in accordance with the best democratic traditions.

I consider it particularly significant that I appear before this important conference with a fresh mandate from my people to continue at the helm of our Ship of State for the next four years as their Chief Executive and as Constitutional Commander-in-Chief of their Armed Forces. I say significant because, armed with such a mandate, I can proceed with confidence and authority to enumerate here some of the basic principles and objectives which will guide my administration in the prosecution of the long drawn-out and continuing struggle against Communism in this country.

Before this group, and through it to the rest of the world, I wish to state that the Philippine Republic, during my humble stewardship of its affairs, shall continue to be dedicated to a vigorous and uncompromising stand against Communism. Within our means, and in keeping with our commitments with other free countries for mutual defense, we shall endeavor, as we have done in the past, to help contain Communism. We shall continue to help the SEATO in its task of consolidating the material and moral defensive resources of free peoples in this part of the world.

I am sure you are familiar with the outcome of our struggle against Communism in this country, as well as the measures which we have adopted to ensure the success of our efforts at containing the military and political onslaughts of that alien ideology. I wish to emphasize the point that our unwavering stand against Communism in all its varied forms has been dictated not by extraneous influences, nor by national policies of recent vintage, but rather by our people themselves and by our tradition of freedom and liberty ennobled and enriched by our forebears. God-fearing, and steeped in the ways of truth, justice, and morality, the people of this country are unqualifiedly opposed to anything that negates the existence and influence of a Divine Being, or detracts from their full enjoyment of individual and collective rights and liberties. For centuries, they have resisted aggressors who sought to implant in this sacred land of their fathers the seeds of imperialism and oppression. They sacrificed the cream of their manhood in the new historic battlefields of Bataan, Corregidor, and elsewhere so that they could avenge the indignities

committed against their homes, their women, and their children by a ruthless invader. In the grim battlegrounds of the Huk Campaign, countless fighters for freedom fell in the night, in the prosecution of the nation-wide effort to foil the attempt of local advocates of that repulsive ideology to gain a foothold in the country. In the first collective action by the Free World against Communist aggression in Korea, the Philippines contributed its humble share.

In this connection, allow me to reiterate our fervent hope that the determined effort of the United Nations to bring about a just disarmament may succeed. Thereby two things essential to the survival and well-being of mankind may be achieved. The means to wage war will be placed under effective international control, and the vast resources now being expended in the sterile and mortally dangerous armaments race could be devoted to the creation of a world climate of peace and to the promotion of economic and social progress for all peoples, thus ultimately removing the root causes of war.

But until this goal is achieved, we should maintain our vigilance and further strengthen our defenses. Accordingly, while succeeding in containing the internal threat to our way of life, we further strengthened our defenses by entering into a collective defense alliance with other free countries of Southeast Asia and the West. We did so aware of the international nature and subversive character of the threat posed by Communism to the peace and security of the world. If, through such a collective alliance, other free countries may profit from our experience in containing Communism, then we shall feel amply rewarded for our efforts.

We in the Philippines are proud to note that the SEATO, in the three years of its existence, has made steady progress towards the achievement of its goal. It is becoming increasingly evident that the SEATO is succeeding in putting into shape the various instruments necessary to implement its defensive economic, political, and social approach to the Communist problem.

The free flow and the extensive exchanges of ideas among SEATO member-nations have been and continue to be most fruitful, and it is my hope that more conferences, meetings, or seminars of this nature will be conducted on a give-and-take basis. To my mind, this should be so, because to contain successfully the many-faceted threat of Communism, each nation situated within or dangerously near the Communist line of aggression must necessarily profit from a candid interchange of views, knowledge, and experiences. Permit me therefore to call upon the architects and engineers of this alliance to revitalize their efforts in this direction, for herein lies a way of knowing better the danger that confronts us.

My friends, in the never-ending struggle to give enduring substance and meaning to human freedom and dignity everywhere, no sacrifice is too great. Thus, the SEATO to the teeming millions of Southeast Asia should be the symbol of freedom and an instrument for the defense of that freedom and the fuller enjoyment of our democratic way of life.

My friends, we feel honored by the decision of the SEATO headquarters to hold your meeting here. To you all, I say Welcome. Although your gathering is understandably small in number, the field encompassed by this meeting is vast and imposing. I have no doubt that you are profoundly aware of this, and that, knowing this, your meeting here will be productive of good and lasting results.

Thank you most sincerely for this kind honor you have accorded me to open officially your seminar today. I hope that your brief stay with us will also prove to be pleasant and memorable.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Speech of President Garcia at the opening of the 3rd ECAFE Regional Technical Conference on the Water Resources Development**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the opening of the 3rd ECAFE Regional Technical Conference on the Water Resources Development**

[Delivered at the Senate Session Hall, December 4, 1957]

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I AM happy to welcome you to this gathering of representatives of the countries of the ECAFE region to consider the problems of the utilization and development of water resources. Our people and government are indeed fortunate to act as the host country on this the third ECAFE conference on water resources: On behalf of myself and my government, I would like to ask all of you to feel at home and to partake of, the facilities and resources which we have offered for your convenience during your deliberations. I hope you will enjoy your stay in our country and that you will carry with you the most pleasant impressions of the Philippines.

All of us within the ECAFE region, particularly those that are in the process of development, have common problems in the use of water. Not unlike land people, water is one of the country's basic resources. Its proper utilization, conservation, and development determine in no small measure the extent of development that any country may achieve. With many of the countries in the ECAFE region engaged in the implementation of a program or another for accelerating the process of social and economic growth, we are faced from the very beginning with the vital problems of resource utilization, of which water is a primary consideration.

One of the age-old traditions in many communities within the ECAFE region is the communal use of water, be it for irrigation or for drinking purposes. This is especially noteworthy in the irrigation of the rice terraces of Northern Luzon, and in the communal irrigation systems of Java, Taiwan, and other areas in Asia. But the traditional uses of water for irrigation and for the household are not enough. The countries of Asia and elsewhere who have regained their freedom and wish to provide their peoples with new opportunities for improving their economic status and their ways of living have embarked on various development schemes. In all these, new and varied and most effective uses of our water resources have assumed increasing importance. For instance, the generation of hydro-electric power to meet the power needs of industrialization has become for many of our countries the highest industrial priority. In some cases, the multi-purpose harnessing of lakes and rivers is a prime concern of overall planning and development. In others the traditional uses of water are being supplemented by modern structures for power production, irrigation, and drinking, taking advantage of the latest advances in science and technology.

It must be recognized from the outset that all the countries within this region have meager resources, for the needs of our peoples are far greater than any available resources would permit. If only for this reason, there is urgent need for the formulation of common principles that will guide each of our countries in the management and development of its water resources so as to yield the utmost benefit within any practicable period of its citizens. No limitations of funds nor the presence of apparently insurmountable difficulties should deter any people from the proper planning and development of its water resources without further delay. Much needless groping and unnecessary waste could however be avoided if there is common understanding and agreement on certain fundamental principles of an integrated approach to the problems of water utilization. Allow me to touch on these very briefly.

First of all, the development of any water use must meet a real need in the community which in turn must be able to operate the system on a self-sustaining basis. This requires careful planning of the particular water use and well-coordinated activities toward the proper estimating of cost-benefit relationships in the community or communities affected.

Secondly, the social and institutional framework of the community utilizing the water resources must be attuned to, or, if necessary, actually developed toward, the proper management and development of the short-run and long-run water uses. Apart from the financial obligations entailed in the construction and development of water uses or systems, the social and cultural factors in the community must be given full consideration. Unless these institutional factors or forces are properly evaluated and integrated with novel or projected uses of water, the heavy expenditures involved would bring little or no benefit to the community.

Thirdly, the main objectives of water utilization and development is to increase the productivity of the people in the community and make their living richer and fuller; hence, this utilization and development must be achieved as far as practicable at minimum economic and social costs to the people involved. Maintenance of benefits and conservation of the water resources are essential aspects of this principle.

The experience of this country in almost half a century, under a benevolent and far-sighted American administration, has been to continue harnessing our water resources within the limitations of available public funds, as part of our development effort. Testimony of this are the gravity irrigation systems, water reservoirs, artesian wells, and community water systems in different parts of the country. Under the Republic, we have strengthened this program and have added water-power development, first at Maria Cristina Falls and other small lakes, and lately, at Ambuklao and Binga on the Agno River. We have also undertaken a consistent program of river dams and flood control systems. Under the American aid projects, our Government has given impetus for further construction of gravity irrigation dams and irrigation canals and the use of mechanical pumps for irrigation.

However, we have not always succeeded in planning and constructing our water systems at such costs as would make the benefits commensurate with the payments made by the people served by these systems.

Perhaps the planning of our new structures, particularly the multi-purpose projects and the new hydros, would come close to desirable cost-benefit relationships. It is to be anticipated that the fuller participation of business and civic leaders, as well as the producers to be affected, would result in the maintenance and operation of our new water projects on a self-sustaining level. Conferences of this kind could contribute immensely to paving the way for intensive studies and research on this problem.

Not only this. The performance of our gravity irrigation systems indicates that the proper use of water has to be deeply rooted in the habits, customs, and traditions of the people if the benefits from such use are to contribute to the enrichment of their lives. Unlike our brothers in the uplands of Luzon who for centuries have practiced terraced agriculture and the most intricate and effective system of artificial irrigation, our peoples on the plains and valleys have not made water use an integral part of their community living. And unlike our neighbors and friends who have lived with communal water systems for ages, we have yet to develop the necessary social institutions by which water rights and water use are natural and efficient means of community living. For unless our people learn to respect individual water rights as part and parcel of community living in our towns and barrios, water utilization in this country will be quite expensive and the benefits therefrom would be derived by only a small segment of the entire population.

Thus we have another lesson to learn from our neighbors in conference on water development such as this one.

But there is a fundamental economic base in water resource management and development. This is the provision of water uses of various kinds at minimum cost to the community, if not to the entire economy. Granted that the social and institutional conditions are favorable to the further harnessing of a country's water resources, the water uses must be made available in the most economical manner to both small and large producers, to agriculture and industry, and must benefit rich and poor alike. To do this, a country like ours must be able to plan its water uses carefully and program their development as part of the country-wide development scheme. And the planning phases must be a joint effort of both the technicians and economists on one side and the local leaders and policymaker on the other side. The planning and implementation of multiple water-resource utilization must also be sustained by long-range financing programmes, especially those with public fiscal support.



We have tried to do all these here in the Philippines. We are still making every effort to continue on a rising scale our water-development program, particularly hydroelectric power development, in some cases combined with uses for irrigation and flood control. But we are not satisfied in our past performance, and the present activities in water utilization projects leave much to be desired. It is needless perhaps to state that we have to improve upon our planning of our permanent structures and in spreading the cost and benefits of our irrigation and other water systems to as many people as possible. Obviously, we have yet to learn from the experience and the studies of other countries in improving the management of our water resources.

A development policy for water resources is indispensable to the country-wide economic program. But for this policy to be effective and beneficial in the long-run, it must be attuned to the changing needs of the people and their evolving attitudes toward greater and more varied uses of water for the general welfare. There is therefore a constant need for review, reappraisal, and evaluation of the present water-resource policy. Inasmuch as the conditions and needs are changing in a country, as these certainly are different from one country to another, the government activities with respect to water resource utilization and development should be re-examined periodically to see whether they are suited to prevailing conditions and whether they are consistent and workable. In this way, each country will have evolved a sound and practicable water resource policy.

My friends, we have a common interest in the effective harnessing of available water resources, not only for the needs of agriculture but more particularly for industrial development. It is the recognition of common problems in this field that impelled the ECAFE to sponsor this conference, and your coming together for the third time is an earnest of your efforts to pool talents and experience in solving some of these problems. The results of your meeting here in Manila will in no small measure enable us to move several steps forward in the proper management and development of water, which, together with our human and natural resources, make up the complete structure of the country's overall development.

I wish you then success in your endeavors, and may this third meeting on water resource development bring sooner to this country as well as to yours the much-awaited realization of better, happier, and more prosperous living for all our citizens.

With such a brilliant array of technological talent as you represent, I have no doubt that this, or shall we say our conference will be both successful and fruitful. It is therefore with great pleasure that I declare the third ECAFE Regional Technical Conference on Water Development officially opened.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1957). President Garcia's speech at the opening of the 3rd ECAFE Regional Technical Conference on the Water Resources Development, delivered at the Senate Session Hall, Wednesday morning, December 4, 1957. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 53(23), 8523-8527.

**Remarks of President Garcia at the State Dinner in Honor of Minister Kishi**

**Remarks  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the State Dinner in Honor of Minister Kishi**

[Delivered on December 6, 1957]

PRIME MINISTER KISHI,  
YOUR EXCELLENCE,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

IN behalf of the people of the Philippines and of my own, I wish to extend our welcoming hand to Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi and his party on their mission of goodwill to our country.

I have always believed that we, the Philippines and Japan, not only because of our geographical propinquity as close neighbors in Southeast Asia but also because we share the same ideals of peace in a free world, should live together in close cooperation, friendship, and brotherly love.

For this reason, I consider significant the visit of Prime Minister Kishi to our country and to the other countries of Southeast Asia as a laudable effort towards these objectives the attainment of which would strengthen the free world.

It is my sincere hope that the presence in our country of Minister Kishi will presage the birth of a new era of closer friendship and more sympathetic understanding between the Filipinos and the Japanese. Forgetting the past and looking only towards the future, our two peoples can live, work and trade together in an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual respect.

Although the chances of success in the disarmament conference of the United Nations is none too bright now, yet the Philippines still clings to the hope that somehow the major powers may yet realize, before it is too late, that the unavoidable alternative to a just fair and genuine disarmament is total war and total destruction. I am sure that Japan shares with the Philippines in this hope and together we shall exert our best and our utmost to this end, as our humble contribution to the cause of universal peace.

Excellencies, may I invite you to offer a toast to the health of His Majesty, Emperor Hirohito, and to the health and prosperity of the Japanese people.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1957). President Garcia's remarks at the State Dinner in honor of Minister Kishi, December 6, 1957. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 53(23), 8530-8531.

**Address of President Garcia before the closing of First National Conference on Filipino Family Life,  
December 7, 1957**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S ADDRESS BEFORE THE CLOSING OF FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON FILIPINO FAMILY LIFE, READ BY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY DE LEON, MALACAÑANG  
SOCIAL HALL, DECEMBER 7, 1957**

MADAM CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I CONGRATULATE the participants in this First National Conference of Filipino Family Life which is closing today. A greater understanding of the functions of the family in modern society, for the purpose of rendering it capable of greater contributions to the common welfare, is an undertaking of the greatest magnitude and importance. You have embraced a pioneering work which I hope will lead to an increasing and continuing interest in our family life, which in turn will endow it with greater strength and effectiveness in performing its basic share in the massive task of nation-building. This work is especially important today when the family is threatened by various forces of disintegration.

The exhaustive preparations preceding this conference, the scientific approach to the problem before you, preceded by discussions by competent leaders in their respective fields and facilitated by working papers based on actual field studies, augurs a bright future for a realistic approach to our family problems. The result of your conference may serve the basis for the reexamination of the overall program for our primary and elementary education. For as the old saying goes, and this is the stubborn fact, education begins at home.

In a country like the Philippines which seethes with manifestations of varied influences, not all of which are easily homogenized into a neat, single impression, Filipino family home life has to be projected to the spectator in different pictures. To simplify these aspects, it would be safe to distinguish between the rural picture and the urban one, projecting the different ways in which family life has changed according to the degree of its assimilation of influences.

The Filipino family and for that matter, all family organizations the world over, have been, and are being, affected by social and economic changes. Be that as it may, the Filipino family shall remain unified, patriarchal, and religious, for our chosen representatives in Congress, in recognition of our time-honored customs and traditions, has declared it to be so by the enactment of Republic Act No. 386, instituting the Civil Code of the Philippines.

A new title constituting 39 Articles dealing on the family has been provided for in the New Civil Code. It defines the Filipino family as a basic social institution which public policy cherishes and protects (Art. 216 C. C). It outlaws customs, practices, or agreement destructive of the Filipino family; establishes the presumptions in favor of the solidarity of our family; enshrines the authority of parents over their children; ordains mutual assistance, both moral and material, among members of the family; and institutes the family home and creates the family council. (Arts. 218, 219, 220, 252, & 253 C.C.).

So that we may have a clearer estimate of the value of this work, we should recall to ourselves the indispensability of solid units as the foundation of the social order in a free community. The existence of well-knit families, identified in the community as groups living in separate homes, constitutes a necessary beginning in the maintenance of peace and order in a democracy. Where the opposite is true, where there are no families but merely individuals without family ties, each an island in himself, the maintenance of an orderly society will necessitate no less than regimentation.

Yet there are today active threats to the integrity of the family as an institution. In the belief that it is the last refuge of property right, communism is hostile to the family. You are familiar with the systematic eradication of families in Russia. In that country numerous youth organizations have been substituted for the family, both as an attempt to obliterate this valuable social unit and as a means of uniformly rearing and conditioning future citizens at an early age.

Although we are fortunately free from this threat, for we are uncompromisingly against communism as a way of life, even a modern democratic society like ours develops conditions which, while generally desirable in themselves, tend to undermine family cohesion. Co-education, industrialization, woman suffrage, and the increasing search for recreation outside of the home as a result of a rising standard of living and shorter hours of work, each contributes to this end.

Indeed, we are as yet fortunately free from the more extreme consequences of contemporary material progress now common in other countries, like birth control and divorce. Without children, marriage fails of its mission, the home is incomplete, and the family lacks the strongest reason for staying together. Divorce, being a frontal attack against the institution of marriage, is itself the final disintegration of the family.

Our concern, therefore is to protect the family from the threats to its stability. But more than merely protecting it, we should buttress it so that it may withstand the threats. And more than merely buttressing it, we should increase its capacity and efficiency to perform its functions in a free society with the attendant developments in education, economics, politics, and recreation that often includes forms of vice.

Home care for the children is a vital function of the family. Where this function is neglected, the child is permanently injured and becomes a potential social problem. The injury may be in the form of impaired health, retarded mental development, or resentment against individuals or society. On the other hand, the growing years offer the best opportunity to set the young in the proper direction of normal physical, mental, and social maturity. For as the poet has well said, as the twig is bent so the tree will grow. Education, adequate economic means, and the proper sense of parental responsibility are factors that can make this task successful.

It is perhaps in the inculcation of the attitude of self-reliance and independence in the child that the home can make its best contribution to the improvement of Philippine society. We have been criticized for pampering our children and tying our matured offsprings to our apronstrings. As a natural consequence, we have had to burden ourselves with fringe relatives whom our mistaken sense of family duty has deprived of the opportunity to learn personal independence. In other countries children are encouraged to learn self-support early. Even when they belong to good, well-to-do families, American boys go out to work at an early age. The advantage of this youthful effort is found not so much in the money earned as in the training gained in business, self-reliance, and personal responsibility.

It is said that the lack of self-reliance in Filipinos generally stems not only from the over-indulgence of parents but also from the method of teaching in our schools in which the students are spoon-fed and otherwise treated to easy pedagogics. Just as we should give more opportunities to our children for self-discipline and self-reliance at home, so they should be drilled in the same virtues in school. This will not be a job of a year or a decade but of generations. Yet, if undertaken in the proper manner, it should result in revolutionizing our society from the attitude of looking upon the family and the government as nothing but welfare organizations, created to extend material assistance, to one of regarding them as more needful of support themselves.

The teen-age problems are really home problems. They are indications of the weakening of home discipline and of the respect for elder's injunctions and counsels. There is no doubt, of course, that a great deal of this teen-age rebellion is due to the influence of unwholesome movies, television, magazines, comics, and books, as well as to the new fad among the young that anything new and different is commendable. Since obedience to home, school, and church, to mention the three major agencies of influence for the youth, means conformity; therefore, disobedience means smartness, so the young reasons out. Were the home unit and its spiritual hold strong on the teen-age, there would not be, it is believed, this present-day flagrant disobedience and open practice of evil ways. The home would then be the haven that it was in the days of old, the place where the whole family stays during evenings, doing things together, enjoying themselves together, and praying together.

The family possesses a significance of great importance to democracy in that, historically, it is the social and jural upholder of private property. Not only is property right essential to a free society, but its consequence of free enterprise is the economic essence of democracy itself. This is in fact the most important reason why communism systematically and ruthlessly uproots families. While this policy may also force individual integration into the

communistic society so as to facilitate regimentation, it also abolishes property as a right and an institution in the same stroke. Useless to communism, the family is indispensable to democracy.

A family established on its very own family home acquires the feeling of having a share—a tangible, physical share—of the country. Filipino families, anchored firmly on their plot of ground and thus know that they own a part of their Motherland and of the earth itself, have a stake to protect and will be interested in every effort to improve the community, the country, and the world, be it civic, political, educational, or some such similar measure in character.

A family thus possessed of substance begins to develop family pride. Loyalty to good family background as against the stigma of broken homes and child illegitimacy becomes part of the national mores and folkways. Family honor becomes a badge. All this, in turn, are now factors of strength in the family itself.

The family is then society itself. It is the source and the original as well as the final mould of the citizen and citizenship. It is the most important single influence in the life of the individual and therefore of the nation as well.

The old order in its completeness cannot continue unchanged, but the new order, spelling modernity and emancipation in its wake, and unfortunately producing teen-age delinquency and youth confusion, cannot be allowed to replace it completely either. Between the old and the new is the middle ground of moderation, which has always been the ground that classical wisdom has trodden. There is much to preserve in the old, like discipline, order, and reverence for the basic spiritual values; there is much to adopt from the new, like ideas of democratic discussion and participation. Let us draw from both influence even as we adopt the principle of the Aristotelian golden mean, which is, to my opinion, one of the finest principles to follow in living.

The Filipino family should mean a unified home, ruled by the father and the mother whom the children obey, love, and respect, even as they understand them and are understood by them as people they share problems with, their joys and sorrows. It should remain the impregnable rock, the firm anchor, and effective working unit of our national existence.

This is as it should be, the ideal Filipino family and home, which you and I would like to preserve for our people and posterity.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Radio Speech of President Garcia appealing for support of the Austerity Program**  
**Radio Speech**  
**of**  
**His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia**  
**President of the Philippines**  
**Appealing for support of the Austerity Program**

[Delivered at the President's Study Room, December 14, 1957]

MY FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

DURING the past few days you have been reading and hearing about the different austerity measures adopted by the Government to conserve our international dollar reserves. While business understands the reasons and the implications of these measures—the common man, the housewife, the employee, the laborer, the farmer, and the masses of our people do not seem to understand them fully. In order to shed more light on this matter, I have decided to have a heart-to-heart talk to all our people on these austerity measures—what they are, why they have been adopted, and how long we shall have to observe them.

First, I would like to tell you what international reserves are and what they are intended for. Our international reserves consist of dollars and partly in gold bullion deposited in American banks, under the custody and management of the Central Bank, primarily intended to back up payments needed in our foreign trade and thus maintain the stability of the peso. Thus, when we export to the United States or to other countries, we increase our dollar or international reserves. Conversely, when we import from foreign countries, we reduce our reserves. Thus, when we import more than we export, our reserves diminish and the peso is weakened. But when we sell to foreign countries more than we buy, we increase our reserve and strengthen the peso in the world monetary market.

What happened for sometime during the last few years was that we bought from the outside more than we sold. There was, therefore, a gradual decline of our international dollar reserves. For instance, in 1954 our imports totalled ₱964.4 million and our exports amounted only to ₱810.3 million. In 1955 our imports amounted to ₱1095.2 million and our exports to ₱801.3 million. In 1956 our imports amounted to ₱1012.9 million and our exports to ₱902.2 million. This year, from January to October, our imports totalled ₱1037.0 million and our exports ₱729.2 million. From these figures it is obvious that the balance of trade has been unfavorable to us and, as a result, our international reserves went down to a point that allows no further drain.

Why did we have to buy more than we sell? Primarily because of our rapid industrialization. Since 1953 up to the present there have been established 784 new industries; such as, mining, textile, fertilizer, auto assembly plants, paper, power, and steel. To establish and keep going these industries, we need dollars to buy machines, equipment, spare parts, and the raw materials not produced here. All these are tremendous demands on our international reserves far more than we can accumulate in dollars from exports mainly of copra, oil, sugar, hemp, lumber, and minerals. The natural net result is what we have now—a low level of dollar reserves which threatens the stability of the peso.

This is the reason for the Government's action in adopting austerity measures designed to regulate our imports and limit them only to essentials so as not to stop the operation of the new industries we have established—784 of them. Thus, we ask you to give up temporarily some of your personal needs, and sacrifice on non-essentials. This is all we ask.

We are also asking our people to cooperate in the effort to curb the “salting away” of dollars abroad. This is referred to as the “flight of dollars” which weakens our reserves, because these dollars are kept where they should not be. This is done by actually exporting more than the amount indicated in invoices. This practice is quite common in the exportation of copra, logs, and other items. Another malpractice which drains our dollar reserves in this manner is the underpricing of our exports and over-pricing our imports. We must stop these improper trade practices, and we appeal to the businessmen to cooperate with us in this matter if only for the selfish reason that an excessive depletion of the dollar reserves would lead to the collapsed of the peso and our foreign trade, and eventually of business itself. The wage earners, the laborers, the farmers, the housewives, and the poor will suffer immensely

while the rich will grow richer and bask in the glory of their affluence and fortune. The social imbalance generated thereby may not allow the few rich to enjoy what they have, for long. A wise adage says, "an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure." The present measures taken by the Government are such a prevention. We ask you to understand and support these measures.

It must be evident to you that we cannot continue to drain our reserves for non-essential consumption goods which we do not now produce. It is understandable that this demand for non-essential consumer goods is based on the natural aspiration of people to live in the best manner possible and in comfort and luxury. However, I must stress the point that the demand for producer goods required for a healthy and growing economy must be provided for since its satisfaction would insure the success of a well-paced and well-regulated industrialization program. To satisfy this demand we now find that we must sacrifice at least temporarily the importation of luxuries and nonessential consumer and producer goods in favor of the essential commodities. The idea is to protect our industrialization program from any possible impairment or disruption. This will require voluntary austerity on the part of our people. In this case austerity only means the foregoing of the importation of non-essentials.

We, as a people, have demonstrated in the past how we could undergo great sacrifices not only in the defense of freedom but in our survival as a nation. I am sure that now, faced by lesser trials, we should be able to measure up to the transient exigencies of the occasion and prove once more our mettle as a people. I believe, therefore, that the essential element of success of the austerity program lies with the people themselves and their voluntary and wholehearted cooperation in the interest of the common weal.

As I have pointed out, the price of continued economic development towards eventual stability has to be paid for by the early adoption of measures of self-denial and discipline. I direct my appeal to you, my fellow-countrymen, to cooperate fully and unselfishly in this course of action which your Government has taken.

Frugality and greater saving on a national scale are what we ask since these appear to be the only reasonable way to keep a healthy balance between our demand for the limited supply of commodities and the money available to the country. This, we shall be able to consolidate and solidify the economic gains already achieved and resume our economic offensive without retrogressing in our program of development and expansion.

To serve as fundamental bases and provide the necessary guidance in self-discipline on the part of the Government, we have decided to adopt, and only after thorough deliberation, the following policies.

As custodian of our currency reserves and charged with the responsibility of maintaining monetary stability, the Central Bank has taken steps to halt further strain on our deteriorating international trade and financial position. I have called the Cabinet to a special session to consider this particular question and we have been assisted by the Monetary Board in our discussions. We must face the situation and confront the stark reality that, if we do not now adopt prompt and drastic measures directed at curtailing excessive demands for non-essential imports, we shall lose the gains we have to date made in our efforts at economic progress. The essence of these measures is to reduce the pressures on our international reserves. We must proceed on our determined march to progress, but this can be achieved only within the framework of economic stability. The price we have to pay is austerity both in our national and in our private lives.

(1) We are therefore committed to be more vigilant now, especially on the part of the different agencies concerned, in order that we may prevent undeclared overshipments of exports, underpricing of exports, and overpricing of imports.

(2) We are, within reasonable bounds, tightening the rules and regulations governing the barter trade, in a desire to plug our dollar leakages.

(3) We are directing the NAMARCO to limit its imports only to essential commodities and to stabilize prices for the common good.

(4) We are trying to reduce to a minimum the importation of rice which we believe should be produced locally in sufficient quantities to meet our needs.

(5) We shall undertake a reform of our domestic transportation system in order to save our dollars on gasoline.

(6) We are embarking on a revision of the tax structure so that the tax burden would be spared in a more equitable manner. The groups who have the capacity to pay will now have to shoulder a large share of the tax burden, thereby relieving some of the load from our low-income groups.

(7) Last but not least, we shall concentrate utmost efforts to intensify the production of food crops and achieve self-sufficiency in rice, corn, and other basic staples. This, as we have planned, is the responsibility of the Government.

On the part of the public, we sound an urgent call for the deferment of the satisfaction of less essential wants and desires. The over-riding principle shall be the observance of self-denial, the avoidance of conspicuous consumption, to the end that we may be able to overcome our present difficulties in the shortest time possible. While we cannot now be precise on how long these austerity measures shall be enforced, I can assure you, my countrymen, that these are temporary and that these shall be enforced only as long as necessary and not a day longer. This will be the subject of further talks and constant review of the situation with our business, industrial, and economic leaders.

In the past, our people have ably demonstrated that it is particularly in times of stress and adversity that the Filipinos have shown their finest hour. Our present foreign trade and financial position need not be a cause for undue alarm because after all the picture is not so dark when we consider that between the establishment of industries and production there is a lull which must be bridged by the courageous and prudent use of our dollar reserves. We are now in such a lull. After the lull, when these industries begin to produce, our exports will swell and our dollar reserves will regain a high level and strong position. When that time comes, austerity ends.

In the name, therefore, of national unity and for the sake of the well-being of our people, I appeal to all of you, my fellow countrymen, to support this program of austerity. With the aid of Divine Providence, we cannot fail.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1957). President Garcia's radio speech appealing for support of the Austerity Program, delivered at his Study Room, Saturday evening, December 14, 1957. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 53(24), 8817-8820.



## **Speech of President Garcia at the 2nd Cancer Educational and Fund Drive**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the 2nd Cancer Educational and Fund Drive**

[Delivered at the Malacañang Social Hall, December 18, 1957]

LADIES  
MY FRIENDS:

AND

GENTLEMEN,

THE health problems of our country today, though still many and varied, are receiving the attention and concern not only of the government but also of the private health agencies and medical organizations. We are gratified to note that the problem of “cancer” has aroused a great deal of interest not only of the medical profession but also of the public at large. I hope that this interest may culminate in a Cancer Program at the national level.

The incidence of cancer in the Philippines is increasing year by year. The disease is prevalent especially in the later decades of life—that period when a person is over 55 years old. It is said that one man in 8 and one woman in 11 are expected to die of cancer. According to the records of general hospitals in Manila, out of every 100 patients admitted, two have cancer, and that, roughly, there are about 200,000 to 400,000 persons now suffering from cancer in the Philippines. Today, cancer is one of the first ten in the causes of death in our country.

Our health agencies are realizing the tremendous problems that must be faced and solved if we are to fight this dreaded disease. Although scientific and clinical researches have added knowledge regarding the disease, cancer cannot be controlled until we know the cause. Therefore, our greatest weapon against cancer still lies in its early recognition and prompt treatment. We believe that the failure of our people to recognize the disease is largely due to lack of cancer consciousness and to ignorance of the disease, especially in the remote areas of our country.

More professional and lay educational programs are needed so that valuable information may reach our people. Through lay educational programs, important information about cancer should be made available to all individual. We must take the greatest interest in the education of the physicians, the patients, and the people in each town and barrio throughout the country. Indeed, the time has arrived to devote more effort to an educational program in cancer detection, for only through a continuing educational program can we increase the rate of detection and ultimately the rate of cure and survival.

The public and the private agencies and health organizations and our people at large must accept a greater responsibility in the final solution of this problem. The Philippine Cancer Society is commendably assuming a substantial portion of this responsibility. I have noted with great satisfaction the strides made by this infant association. Already, with the sum of over ₱129,000 collected last year, the Philippine Cancer Society has begun building its Cancer Diagnostic and Detection Center on a lot donated by the Concepcion Paterno Memorial Foundation. It has met the representatives of hospitals, clinics, medical, and other allied professional groups and universities to map out a blueprint for the more accurate registration and reporting of cancer cases, in an effort to trace each case and provide the proper treatment and the best management of the case. It has launched an intensive educational campaign to teach our people the warning signals of cancer so that they may seek an earlier diagnosis, thus ensuring the possibility of cure. This is an impressive record for a short year of existence, and I believe it is our duty as Filipinos interested in the health and welfare of our present and future generation, to continue supporting the efforts of the Philippine Cancer Society by giving generously to the cancer fund drive.

I therefore call on every citizen of our Republic to heed the plea of the Philippine Cancer Society and contribute generously to the Cancer Fund Drive. Your contribution may mean the difference between life and death for some of our unfortunate people. Unfortunately, the weapons for the treatment of cancer are costly and need highly specialized operators. Your contributions will mean that the Philippines can some day boast of having the most

modern facilities for the control of cancer, and that any Filipino with a cancer that is still curable need not despair for absence of such facilities. Let us not fail the men and women who are dedicating their time, knowledge, and efforts in their fight against cancer so that others may live.

To the Philippine Cancer Society and its corps of volunteers, I say Congratulations for a job well started! May your fund drive this year be a completely successful one.

And now, I take great pleasure in presenting my personal contribution to the second Cancer Fund Drive.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1957). President Garcia's speech at the 2nd Cancer Educational and Fund Drive at 5:30 p.m., December 18, 1957, at Malacañang Social Hall. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 53(24), 8821-8822.

## **Second Austerity Speech of President Garcia**

### **Second Austerity Speech of His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia President of the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Independence Grandstand, January 18, 1958]

MY FRIENDS:

I AM happy to greet this mammoth multitude of the youth of the land including civic, business, and religious leaders. Your enthusiastic response to the country's call to austerity fills me with the much needed inspiration and spiritual strength to carry on the difficult task of government.

As I look around me and see that on this historic spot are gathered the cream of our youth, I feel that I am fortunate in being able to address myself to the most potent representative group of what Rizal referred to as the "fair hope of the Fatherland." On this momentous occasion I would like to appeal to all of you, and through you, to all our countrymen to rally behind the positive measures which I, with your cooperation, will undertake to stabilize our economy and lay the firm foundation for the real and lasting prosperity and happiness of our people. To achieve this, we shall together implement vigorously a positive program of action, hand in hand with the temporary austerity measures which have already been initiated.

I am pleased to learn that yesterday all schools, colleges, and universities throughout the country observed "Austerity Day" fittingly. I am particularly elated that the Department of Education has taken the initiative in circularizing all school superintendents, urging them to intensify the food production campaign in their respective jurisdictions. The circular directed that all vacant areas in school sites be planted to food crops or devoted to the raising of poultry and small animals. It added that school children devote more time to food production activities during their work education, practical arts, and vocational periods; and that these activities be carried on both in the school and in the home, whenever possible.

As these food production activities will be observed not only during "Austerity Day" but throughout the year, I believe that the step taken by the department can contribute concretely and substantially to the government's austerity program. The Department of Education deserves credit for leading the way in the positive implementation of the government's policy about austerity.

My friends, the austerity program has two phases: the first is the tightening of the belt, and the second is the flexing of the muscles in the supreme effort to achieve maximum production. But the whole program boils down to a way of life for all of us—a life of frugality, self-discipline, and industry.

When I launched this program last December 14, I explained to our people the causes which have contributed to our low dollar reserves, the reasons for adopting some temporary austerity measures to help tide us over to better times, and the need for practicing the virtues of self-denial, particularly in curbing our appetites in the consumption of non-essential and luxury commodities.

While in my first appeal to the country I dwelt mostly on the negative aspects of austerity, exhorting our people not to do this or that thing, this afternoon I shall stress the positive side of our determined efforts to normalize our economy and give it flesh and blood.

There is only one way to do this, and it is to produce more of our primary needs. On this point I wish to repeat what I said in my inaugural address:

“We must produce here, by and for ourselves, enough to provide for the fundamental needs of life—food, shelter, and clothing. The country now has the natural resources, the means, and the modern know-how to do it. We only lack the will to do it. Let us summon then from the spiritual reservoir of the nation the collective will and determination to make our country self-sufficient in foodstuffs, shelter, and clothing. Our freedom must be nourished from the wealth of our own soil and by the labor of our own manhood. This is the key policy of this administration in the field of economics. To this I give my heart and hand.”

But how can we produce more?

We are a country endowed by a Benevolent Providence with a land lush with fertile soil and rich with forest products and mineral resources. Our lakes, rivers, and seas are fabulously full of fishes. And yet it seems paradoxical if not ironical that in the midst of such overflowing abundance, we suffer scarcity even in our essential needs like rice and fish, importing these items at the expense of our already low dollar reserves.

After a close study of this perennial problem of under-productivity which has afflicted our people since time unremembered, I believe that we can solve it once and for all if through a united national will, we decide here and now to intensify and coordinate scientific and industrial research, harnessing the miracles of modern science to assist in producing food, clothing, shelter, and other essential necessities of civilized life so that these can be produced more cheaply and abundantly and sold at prices within the reach of the masses of our people. The target of such research program will be to utilize local raw materials to bring the quality of local products up to standard, to discover improved processes and more efficient methods of production, and to study the utilization of by-products and what now is erroneously called waste of production.

I believe that through this scientific approach we shall be able to increase production by utilizing the already existing production facilities, by expanding these facilities, or by a combination of these two methods.

Let us take as an example rice, our staple food. I announced recently, a short and long range program for self-sufficiency in this cereal. I outlined what the government would do to increase yield; such as, providing small farmers with free fertilizers and insecticides, making available certified selected seeds, intensifying the use of improved rice planting methods, and continuing the construction of more irrigation systems and feeder roads in the barrios.

To accomplish this program with optimum results, we shall have to seek the aid of science and research which are the handmaidens of progress. For instance, we should have easy means of determining which fertilizer is best suited to a certain type of soil, which insecticide is most effective for a particular plant pests, or what certified seeds are best adapted to grow in a given region.

These are only some of the practical aspects of scientific research which can be brought to bear on the effective production of rice. All rice experts agree that with the application of such scientific aids like fertilizers, insecticides, certified selected seeds and modern planting, plus the benefits of irrigation systems, our farmers will be able to quadruple their yield per hectare from 27 cavans, the present average yield per hectare, to 100 cavans of palay. This is not a mere wishful mathematical computation but actual production figures obtained in pilot and controlled farms and current in foreign countries.

It is not, therefore, idle talk to state that with the help of science we shall become not only self-sufficient in, but export-producer of rice. And when this has been achieved, our rice producers will be grateful that, having automatically reduced their cost of production, they can sell their palay much cheaper to the consumer and at the same time at a greater profit for themselves. To my mind, this is the best form of incentive which can be given to rice farmers.

Here are some pertinent facts and figures: We now produce 74,400,000 cavans of rice annually. We need 76,400,000 cavans for total consumption. We import the deficit at an average of 2,000,000 cavans a year. If we can double the present average yield of 27 cavans per hectare, we shall not only attain self-sufficiency in rice but we shall also be able to export some 60,000,000 cavans.

The case of rice can be duplicated in other principal products of our country. As we accelerate our scientific skill in producing or manufacturing our products, we correspondingly increase the bulk of production and decrease its cost, and consequently lower its selling price. And what is even more important, we will export more than we import and thus build up our international reserves.

But aside from increasing production, scientific research is most important in improving, standardizing, and controlling the quality of the finished products while at the same time utilizing the by-products for more gainful ends. A few of our products which will immeasurably benefit from the application of scientific research are rice, fish, sugar, coconut, hemp, ramie and other fibers, lumber, salt, and cottage industry products.

I wish to state in this connection that I have received information from the United States that there is a big demand for our cottage industry products; such as, hats, slippers, embroideries, handbags, tablecloth, and other items. However, owing to inefficient and sub-standard production, we cannot meet the demands, thereby losing thousands of dollars. To remedy the situation, I recently named a committee which will study the establishment in Manila of a national trading center to serve as a clearing house of our cottage industry products. This center will supervise the manufacture, standardization, and handling of the wholesale marketing of these products in the United States, Japan, and other countries.

My friends, you know very well that, to hasten the increase of production, we must give proper incentives to producers. For this reason, I have created a presidential committee which is studying and will recommend ways of giving incentives to producers, especially those whose products are for export. The committee is in the process of holding public hearings to get a cross-section of the views of the various economic segments of the country. When these recommendations are processed, I shall submit those which merit implementation to our Congress for the necessary legislation.

I am glad to tell you that our government already has the nucleus of agencies undertaking scientific research which greatly increase the production of our farms and factories. Such agencies are the National Science Board, the Institute of Science and Technology, the National Research Council, and the Philippine Nuclear Energy Commission which is now in the process of organization. Researches are also being done in the Bureau of Plant Industry and in the Bureau of Animal Industry.

However, these research agencies of the government have not yet produced the expected results. It is believed that this failure is due, to a large degree, to defective laws creating these offices and to lack of effective coordination and direction. We must therefore have a new and more aggressive leadership in scientific research and harness the established industries like sugar, coconut, mining, hemp, and fiber to put up and maintain their respective scientific research department with the assistance and encouragement of the government.

It is clear that we have been generously endowed by Nature with natural resources to achieve self-sufficiency in the production of our primary economic needs. We have the man power to till the farms and work in the factories. Our youth are fast acquiring the modern technology and know-how to man our agro-industrial enterprises. What we need is a fixed and determined policy of the government to weld together all these elements of production into a coordinated whole, working like a well-oiled machine. What we need is to revitalize scientific and industrial research and apply the results to production. But above all, we need the unflinching will of our people to produce more of our essential needs and cast away the colonial mentality of preferring foreign products to ours which may be similar in quality. Let us consume what we produce and be proud of it. Let us make this, part of our way of life. True nationalism begins with economic nationalism. However, we cannot live in a vacuum of isolationism in our international life. We can fill what other people lack with what we have in abundance and get from them what we lack by mutually beneficial trade.

As a step forward in achieving more production through the aid of scientific and industrial research, I shall recommend to Congress the integration of all government agencies undertaking scientific and industrial research and induce the industries to join with the government in a collective scientific effort for maximum production. I shall also recommend to Congress revision of laws which do not promote the achievement of this end.

To realize the primary objectives of this new office as envisioned, research projects should be thoroughly screened to insure wise and economical investment. No research funds shall be expended unless a research proposal and approval is submitted, to include among other things research plans up to and including the pilot plant stage. I appeal to all our industrialists to back up this program of integrated research with not only their moral but financial support. With the pooling together of all government and private scientific and research agencies, we shall be in a position to offer positive scientific assistance to industry. Several industries engaged in one kind of research may agree to pool their efforts with the assistance of government facilities to achieve a common result which will benefit themselves and the entire country. Let us harness the might and light of science to enhance our economy and happiness.

My friends, those are some of the positive measures which the government will push through to increase our country's production of its principal requirements. We are fortunate that with the aid of modern scientific discoveries we shall be able to step up our progress in production in a shorter time than it would have taken us years ago.

Incidentally, I would like to state that I have noted many cases of unreasonable increase in the prices of prime commodities. People are prone to attribute this abnormal condition to austerity. But why should this blame be laid at the door of austerity program?

The increase in prices is a universal trend due to several causes from which we cannot escape. Although there may be justification in increased prices for some commodities, I earnestly appeal to the patriotism of our merchants, nationals and aliens alike, to refrain from making excessive profits at the expense of the suffering of our people. Let us not allow this to happen. I will take necessary measures drastic measures if need be, to protect our people from the concupiscence and greed of the heartless.

As I have already explained, austerity also means moderation, temperance, and thriftiness. It is, therefore, the Christian way of life and, as such, it is a life of faith and hope and love. Let us forever remember that the glory of the Resurrection was attained through the Sacrifice at Calvary. Let us always keep in mind that the Promised Land was reached after crossing the Sahara of trials, the Red Sea of hardship, and the Jordan of adversities. I know that the Filipino youth in many episodes of our history—like during the 100-year revolt of Dagohoy, the Revolution of 1896, the fight for freedom at the end of the last century, and the 40-year crusade for our independence that was heroically demonstrated on the battlefields of Bataan, Corregidor, Leyte, Lingayen, and a hundred other places, and culminating gloriously on July 4, 1946—have proved themselves capable of any sacrifice for the sake of country, freedom, and justice.

This time our youth are once again tested. Their national discipline is challenged. Their patriotism is once again placed under trial, this time not on the fields of battle but on the fields of production. I have full faith in our youth that they will emerge triumphant out of all these tests and trials. I have full confidence that they will rise equal to the challenge. Verily has Rizal said that our youth are the “fair hope of the Fatherland.”

I reiterate my appeal to the youth of our country not to dissipate their time in frivolities and wasteful occupations but to dedicate their golden hours in fruitfully productive pursuits. I ask our industrialists to go all out for scientific and industrial research and cooperate with the government's research program. I exhort our farm and factory hands to intensify the tempo of production. I urge everyone to produce and make production a way of life.

Young men and women, at this trying time of our economic growth let our slogan be: HE SERVES HIS COUNTRY BEST WHO PRODUCES MOST.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1958). President Garcia's second austerity speech delivered at the Independence Grandstand, Saturday afternoon, January 18, 1958. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 54(2), 308-314.

**Speech of President Garcia on the fiftieth anniversary of the Philippine Columbian Association, January 29, 1958**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
On the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Philippine Columbian Association**

*[Delivered at the Columbian Club House, January 29, 1958]*

FELLOW  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

COLUMBIANS,

IT IS NOT often that we find human institutions able to resist the decline and eventual disintegration which the erosion of time unfailingly brings. Yet, we find the Philippine Columbian Association celebrating its Fiftieth Anniversary today—vigorous as ever, constructively active and progressive, and most important of all, keenly conscious of the challenge of change. This speaks very highly of the lofty principles on which the association was founded; it depicts the underlying strength of spirit which the founding members originally imparted to this association in 1907. That is why I feel highly honored to be a member of the Philippine Columbian Association, especially since my membership is linked with our Club's Golden Jubilee.

Tonight, with your permission, I would like to address you as a humble member, to consult with you in the same manner that President Quezon in his time utilized the Club as a sounding board for some of his ideas. I would like to discuss with you the challenge of our time, to seek counsel and strength in your company, and to draw inspiration from the great traditions of this great institution.

As I listened to the reminiscences of our distinguished members recalling the highlights in the history of our Club, I could not but ponder on the great changes which have taken place in our country during the last fifty years. At the turn of the century, as we emerged from Spanish colonial rule, the task of our leaders was to unite our people into a nation. At that time, the feeling of regionalism was rather prevalent and this undermined the cohesion of our population. But spousing the cause of equality among Filipinos in social business and government circles, our Club greatly assisted in effecting the changes necessary to our oneness as a people. It also influenced the attitude of foreigners towards us and gained their respect. We gradually achieved self-confidence and self-reliance in public affairs—traits that were prerequisites for the attainment of political sovereignty.

Having attained the goal of racial equality, and with it, national dignity, our political leaders headed by the inimitable President Quezon and Speaker Osmeña, rallied the nation towards obtaining complete and absolute political independence. The foresight of our leaders gave the Philippines the honor of being the first Asian nation to be freed from colonial rule.

In the historic struggle for Independence, our Club indeed played an important role. It served as a platform from which President Quezon tested the validity of his policies. It gathered the live elements of our population and formed them into a cohesive group of leaders which propagated the norms and mores necessary for a successful democracy.

In this, the second half of the twentieth century, the next question, confronting our country is: WHERE TO NOW? As an association composed of the leading elements of the community, this Club should lead the way towards finding a valid answer to this question. If in the past years the Philippine Columbian Association spearheaded the movement for liberty, why should we not take a hand in seeking a new direction for the nation? Are we to stand idly by now and remain as a purely social club or tennis club, when there are economic problems that threaten the nation's stability?

If our Club played a vital role in directing our country's activities and political struggles culminating in the grant of our independence on July 4, 1946, why can we not now exert the same influence in the establishment of a strong national economy? Our political independence will be empty of meaning unless we can strengthen our economy which will enable our humblest citizen to enjoy the comforts and conveniences of a civilized life. But the only way we can successfully bolster our economy is through the development and application of scientific research.

This is the challenge brought about by swift changes of time and circumstances. This is the challenge, not only before the Philippine Columbian Association, but also before every civic and social organization throughout the country and before every Filipino for that matter. We must now marshal our intelligence and resources and throw them behind the great effort to ward off suffering and misery and to raise the standard of living of our people.

I see in your program that the theme of your celebration this year is "National Progress through Science." No theme can be more timely or more proper. You might have noted that, both in my inaugural address and in my state-of-the-nation message to Congress, I made reference to the need of science-and scientific research to step up our economic development program. Taking advantage of this select group constituting this audience, allow me to say a few words by way of amplification of the ideas expressed in those addresses.

It should not be necessary for me to point out that in this age of the atom, the jet plane, the guided missile, and the artificial-satellite, we cannot afford to have our actions continue to be governed by unscientific methods. We need what Emerson calls "faith commensurate with the grander orbits and universal law which science discloses." Indeed, we must move forward and attack our problems scientifically if we wish to be able to hold our own in the eternal struggle for a place under the sun in this highly competitive world.

It is a matter of common knowledge that across the centuries man has been able to progress because of his continuous efforts to harness the forces of nature to his higher purpose.

The experience of the progressive countries of the world, particularly the United States and England, should serve as object lessons for us. These countries have shown how science and scientific research have helped advance their economic development and progress. The Industrial Revolution, which had its beginnings in England in the eighteenth century, was accelerated by the studies of such scientists as Sir Humphrey Davy, Henry Bessemer, and Michael Faraday. In the United States the studies of Robert Fulton which led to the invention of the steamboat of Samuel Morse, who invented the telegraph, of the Wright brothers, who produced the airplane, and of Edison, who introduced the multifarious uses of electricity, have brought about great changes in the lives not only of the American people but also of the people of the whole world.

The practical application of science in these countries points the way for us in the Philippines to follow. We are fortunate to have been endowed by Divine Providence with a wealth of raw materials for the manufacture of useful commodities. The nipa palm, for instance, can be a source of fuel for the machines in our factories as well as for motorized land and water transportation. With the great variety of trees in our forests, there is no reason why we should not be able to produce our own pulp for the manufacture of high-grade paper. In the case of rice, which is the staple food of our people, our scientists should be able to discover ways of making our country self-sufficient in this cereal by importing or developing new high-yielding varieties through plant breeding, and by more effective control of pests and diseases, scientific analysis of soils, proper use of fertilizers, and painstaking study of production costs. What has been said of rice may well apply to corn.

Turning now to livestock raising, we need extensive research in order to improve our production which at present is far from satisfactory. Then, too, our principal export crops such as sugar, abaca and copra need to be the subject of continuous research in order to find ways of improving production, processing and marketing, and of making profitable use of by-products.

My friends, I have spoken of science in relation to our economic development program because, at this juncture of our national life, the economic problems of the country must receive preferential attention in order that our people may enjoy a greater measure of prosperity than they have ever enjoyed before. I am of the firm conviction that scientific research can accelerate the improvement of the economic condition of our people. If statistics mean



anything at all, it should be interesting to note that countries where science has attained a high degree of progress generally have a higher per capita income than those in which science is still in the beginning stages of development. Thus, Sweden and the United States, which are far advanced in this respect, have a per capita income of \$993 and \$1,847, respectively. On the other hand, the Philippines still has very far to go, with our average annual real per capita income of only ₱361. With such a low income, it is no wonder that our standard of living cannot compare favorably with those of countries which have made great strides in science.

However, as the adage goes, “Man does not live by bread alone.” We should progress not only in the economic field but also in the realm of art and culture. Ideas, after all, are far more lasting and far more important to this world than any monumental work of masonry. The pyramids of Egypt, the temples of Greece, and the coliseum in Rome have stood for centuries in majestic grandeur. But how insignificant they stand measured in terms of contribution to the progress of mankind as compared to Aristotle’s or Plato’s thoughts or to Einstein’s theories!

It seems beyond dispute that our present civilization relies more on brains than on brawn. For instance, a team of two or three scientists in an obscure laboratory, intent on a new scientific discovery, may contribute more wealth to a nation than a thousand laborers working to deathly fatigue in our sunburnt fields.

These things we all realize. But what is being done in this country to encourage art and culture in the true sense of the word? While I shall strongly support our artistic and cultural development, I hope that our people should also give their enthusiastic and active response to this endeavor. It is high time that the Philippine Columbian Association and other similar organizations take the initiative in this field. It is not for me nor the government to outline in detail the role of civic and social organizations in the development of various aspects of art and culture. Here, for instance, in this very hall are men who can do the planning and the thinking. Here is a challenge for them.

In a period of trial, a nation that can utilize all its resources in solving various aspects of the overall problem will survive. But it will take the highest patriotism on the part of all citizens to reach a happy solution. It is well for us to remember that any generation that works for itself selfishly is decadent. History is full of such cases, of people and generations whose grasping opportunism led them to national ruin. There was Greece; there was Rome—to name only two instances. To attain greatness, a people must not work for itself; it must work for the future; it must work for posterity.

With the Philippine Columbian Association providing the leadership and inspiration, other civic organizations can show to our people the way to true economic development through the growth and application of scientific research, and the enjoyment of a full life through the flowering of our own art and culture.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

**Speech of President Garcia on the opening of the 8th Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite Masons, February 13, 1958**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
On the opening of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Supreme Court Council of the Scottish Rite Masons**

*[Delivered at the Plaridel Masonic Temple, February 13, 1958]*

I SHALL remember this occasion as a happy moment of my life, for tonight you have given me the opportunity to be with you and to talk to you on a subject that is cherished and treasured in every human heart. It is with this pleasant feeling that I take the privilege to talk to you at this, your Scottish Rite reunion.

I cannot help but take cognizance of the great and noble work which your grand fraternity has done and is still doing for freedom of thought and conscience, for democracy, and for equality. In our own country and in the United States, members of your brotherhood led in the fight for the sacrosanct cause of liberty, equality, and fraternity.

In his infinite wisdom and abiding love for mankind, God created men equal and free. Our people have kept faith with their freedom which they have cherished since time immemorial, living and fighting for it and dying for it whenever necessary. Love for liberty has been manifested in numerous events that fill the pages of Philippine history. When their freedom and peace were curtailed and their rights and dignity as human beings were threatened, the Filipino people rose in belligerent protest. In Bohol Dagohoy fought with might and main against the Spaniards; in the Ilocos, Diego Silang; in Pampanga, Maniego.

Let us not forget the Philippine Revolution of 1896, nor the Philippine-American War that followed. All these wars were fought in the name of freedom and the human right to live and let live. Nor should we forget our part in World Wars I and II, where we fought side by side with the American and other democracy-loving peoples of the free world.

It makes me very happy to know that this venerable and ancient fraternity of yours is founded on precepts of brotherly love, belief, and truth. On these precepts is broadly premised the promise of peace. World-brotherhood is a most worthy and noble aim. And I think that it can be achieved. Good begets good. In the heart of man there glows the spark of love for his own kind. If men's minds and hearts can be directed toward that happy goal—brotherhood of mankind—our hope for peace will be accomplished. If we can make man see the truth and make him believe the gospel of love, make him look to his neighbor as his friend and brother, and make him forget his envies his jealousies, and selfishness, we can attain true universal brotherhood.

Regarding this noble objective to which all Masons are faithfully dedicated, let me quote Rizal's inspiring words:

“And what does our duty consist? It consists in working for the redemption of humanity, because once man is dignified there will be less unfortunates and more happy people, to the extent to which this is possible considering our condition. “Humanity will not be redeemed so long as there are men who are exploited, so long as there are oppressed races, so long as intellects are castrated and eyes blinded in order that others may live like sultans and alone enjoy the contemplation of beauty. Humanity will not be redeemed and reason will not be free while faith is imposed upon man, while whims are laws, while there are subject nations. Humanity, in order to reach the high destiny toward which God is guiding it, must be free from dissension and from plagues devastating it, and there must be no complaints or maledictions heard in its onward march.”

Andres Bonifacio, the great Plebeian, in his writings for the people that he loved too much and too well, left these words:

“Always bear in mind that the true love of God is the love of thy country, and that this love is also the true love for thy fellowmen.

“Engrave in thy heart that the height of honor and happiness is to die in order to save one’s country.”

In Mabini’s *True Decalogue*, that Sublime Paralytic who selflessly forgot his own physical weakness and material poverty, in dedicating his life and labors for the Filipino cause, said the following:

“Love thy country next to thy God, and thy honor more than thyself, for it is the only patrimony of the race, the only inheritance from thy ancestors, and the only legacy for thy descendants; because of it thou hast life, love, interests, happiness, honor, and God.”

These tenets for which the greatest among us lived and worked, and even died, are the same principles for which this fraternity is committed. Let me congratulate you, my friends, for being members of this fraternity dedicated to such high and noble ideals. Yours is truly an enviable membership, for your organization touches the four corners of the earth and binds it together with the loving hands of friendship for all. Yours is the true freedom, for it is governed by the self-imposed responsibility to bring tolerance, forbearance, and relief to every man and woman and child. Yours, too, is the real democracy, because Masonry has brought about equality for all men of all creed and color, It has removed distinction of the races; it has formed a big universal brotherhood. Yours is the brotherhood that works and builds and even sacrifices for freedom, democracy, and peace.

For one last parting word. Freedom of thought, freedom of experience, and freedom of conscience constitute the greatest heritage of democratic civilization for which so many of your greatest heroic brothers have fought and died in all climes and times. These great freedoms of men have led us to the miraculous advances of science, to this age of atomic and nuclear energy, television, and supersonic planes, and to the era of the sputnik that opens to us the threshold of inter-planetary navigation. Your fraternity has won a place in the vanguard of marching civilization. May it remain there until time is no more.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia on the launching of the Philippine National Red Cross Fund Campaign, February 14, 1958**

**THE PRESIDENT’S SPEECH ON THE LAUNCHING OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RED CROSS FUND CAMPAIGN, AT MALACAÑANG, FEBRUARY 14, 1958**

FRIENDS AND FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

WE ARE launching this years’ Red Cross appeal for funds against a background of austerity through which we are confident we can tide over our country to prosperity.

Be this at it may, I am confident that austerity or no austerity, our people will gladly respond to the call of the Red Cross, for everybody knows that there is no austerity in human suffering. As a matter of fact, suffering never takes a “day off” and the work of mercy never ends.

Hence, the Red Cross must be constantly sustained in its task of mitigating suffering, and the difficulties which the country undergoes today should not in any manner adversely affect the success of this year’s PNRC appeal. The present conditions are precisely the conditions which demand unremitting prosecution of welfare services. At no other times has Red Cross work meant more to so many of our people than now.

I call upon all to lend unqualified support to the Red Cross appeal, knowing as we do that if the welfare needs of the less privileged are successfully met, there emerges a stronger nation, better equipped to contribute to the productive effort.

I invoke the magnanimity of all citizens and residents of this country and all civic associations and charitable organizations to help actively in this campaign by giving generously of their time and effort to have the objectives of the Red Cross realized.

I hereby authorized all national, provincial, city, and municipal officials and school authorities to accept fund-raising responsibilities for the Red Cross and I appeal to them to take the initiative and participate in active leadership in their respective communities.

In this Red Cross fund campaign I find a new challenge to which we all are equal—a challenge to our individual capacities, a challenge to our ability as a nation to provide for community needs occasioned by inevitable calamities which scourge wide areas and afflict so many of us daily.

Let us all arise as one to meet this challenge, each one shouldering bravely the share of the burden that befalls him yet sharing the fulfillment of a responsibility, we owe to God, our country, and our people. It is my great privilege to declare open the 1958 Red Cross National Fund Campaign by presenting to the Honorary Chairman of the drive (my First Lady) a humble token of my sharing with you this campaign, the sum of one thousand pesos.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
Upon being conferred the Grand Cross, Knights of Rizal**

FELLOW KNIGHTS OF RIZAL,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Jose Rizal is truly the universal genius of our race. In his writings—in his extensive correspondence, essays and novels—he has planted, the seed of every thought of national importance that we have since cultivated, cherished, and protected both in peace and in war. Rizal is indeed the fountainhead of our people's inspiration, faith, and hope in themselves and their destiny.

Rizal was the father of social justice in our country, Every aspect of our present program of mass uplift was a facet of his deed and dream for the common man. For the common man he envisioned better schooling, sturdier health, broader economic opportunities, greater rights and dignity, higher social development, and more substantial participation in his government.

Not only did he think deeply and write constantly of these matters but in the end he converted his undeserved exile in Dapitan into a practical demonstration of the need and feasibility of his ideas. Out of that lonely place of captivity, he lovingly built a model community with roads, irrigation system, piped water, school, medical clinic, park, and other modern community facilities. Dapitan was his eloquent reply to those who refused to listen to his ideas of reform: with good will and hard work, the entire Philippines could be built into a progressive Dapitan.

Land for the landless, an idea culled from Rizal's writings, became one of the strongest motivations and the loudest battlecries of the revolution against Spain. Before the storm and the deluge, thoughtful Filipinos like Rizal had

hoped merely for peaceful reforms in this respect. When petitions and memorials did not suffice, however, land reform became one of the great sparks that ignited the fires of revolution. And even when peace was forced upon the revolutionary armies, as a result of their inferior arms and training and in the face of constant military reinforcements from Madrid, the Pact of Biak-na-Bato included the return of the land to the people as one of the reforms pledged by the Motherland.

In the interregnum between the two great waves of the revolution, the terms of the Pact were forgotten. When, as an incident of the Spanish-American War, the American forces reached the Philippines, the promised reforms seemed to have been completely lost. For sometime it appeared that Rizal, Bonifacio, del Pilar, and the other heroes of the nation had died in vain.

It was not so! In the democratic mind of America, the ideas and ideals of Rizal found a natural soil in which to germinate and proliferate. This fact was clearly evident in the Philippine Bill of 1902. Although there was very little if any Filipino intervention in the enactment of that law, since our leaders of that time were obsessed by the thought of annexing the Philippines to the United States, it included Rizal's idea of land reform.

The act of the American Congress provided for the purchase of the friar lands by the Philippine Government. To finance the purchase, it authorized the sale of American Government-guaranteed Philippine Government bonds here and in the United States. And to consummate the purchase, the Civil Governor, the Hon. William Howard Taft, made a special trip to Rome to conduct negotiations with no less than the Pope. The purchase of the friar lands for re-sale in smaller parcels to Filipinos was the first great step in the actual implementation of Rizal's dream.

Given its initial impetus by Taft, the land reform became a major government policy during the leadership of Sergio Osmeña and Manuel L. Quezon. Gradually, it also broadened to the proportions of Rizal's original concept of mass improvement. It was under the Commonwealth that such related reforms as the minimum wage law, the eight-hour labor law, and other mass-uplifting legislation reinforced the work of land redistribution and came to be identified as "social justice." The purchase of *haciendas* to be subdivided and sold was directly supplemented by the opening of virgin lands for the resettlement of families, and among the most successful of these new communities carved out of the wilderness was Koronadal.

Under the late President Ramon Magsaysay, the program of mass uplift anchored on land reform was greatly broadened and expanded. Not only was the acquisition of big landed estates for subdivision and redistribution accelerated under the Land Tenure Act, but many supplementary efforts were undertaken under a program that aimed to make every Philippine rural community measure up to Rizal's Dapitan. Artesian wells, irrigation systems, barrio roads, barrio schools, mobile health clinics, agricultural experts, public works engineers, rural physicians and dentists, and many other boons first dreamed of by Rizal became common sights and sounds. Only financial limitations conditioned the extent and intensity of the efforts to improve the lot of our masses.

This administration is resolved to continue and, if possible, accelerate and expand the rural uplift of our worthy predecessor. This resolve is buttressed not only by our desire to keep faith with Rizal and the other patriots who made the supreme sacrifice that our people may rise from degradation and poverty to dignity and prosperity it is also dictated by our loyalty to democracy, that kind of government which alone permits the respect for human rights and the observance of human dignity for which Rizal died that his people may live to enjoy.

When the space era just emerging reaches its full development, it may be that man will be emancipated from his present complete dependence on *tierra firma*. It may be that man will then live in homes orbiting in space; it may be that food will no longer have to come out of earth's soil but from now-unknown materials and substances in space; it may be that other planets, once interplanetary travel has become an ordinary accomplishment, will offer greater and healthier living conditions. Even so, it will take generations before the material and sentimental value of land ownership on earth will wear out—if ever. Without, therefore, shutting our eyes to possible future developments, we should, in our time and in our world, continue without let-up with our efforts to improve the lot of our masses the Rizal way.

We shall more particularly proceed with the work of giving land to the landless. The possession of a plot of ground as a family anchorage is a condition most conducive to peace and order, civic consciousness, democracy, and love of country. To this condition, for instance, the fierce patriotism of the French masses is attributed. And it is easily understandable. Where a man has a visible and tangible stake in his own country—a stake that constitutes his own palpable and measurable share of his Motherland to protect and cherish unto death—he can be depended upon to uphold peace and order, to be industrious, to possess strong social and political instincts, and to love his fellowmen and his country.

Jose Rizal has won his cherished place in our hearts and in the heart of the world because of his great and humane vision. The more we search for his recorded thoughts, the more we scrutinize his theories and principles of citizenship and nation-building, the more we discover the sturdy seeds of individual and personal progress and greatness. Your group is the particular custodian of the wealth of humane ideas and ideals that are Rizal's. You are fortunate in the honor of this task, yet you must also realize the heavy responsibility that you have assumed.

You, gentlemen, are Knights of Rizal; you have sworn abiding loyalty to his ideals; you have promised to dedicate yourselves to their propagation and triumph. It will be mere presumption on my part to try and tell you how best to carry out your sworn commitments. I shall therefore limit myself to urging you to translate your oath into a positive, living reality.

By this I do not mean that you should stop your profound studies of Rizal's works and times: this you must continue to do. I do not mean that you should stop writing about Rizal: with this you must go forward. I do not mean that you should cease communing with the great hero and patriot in thought and contemplation: this you must carry on.

But I dare say that a Rizal Knighthood should partake of the pure courage and of the deep sense of mission among the Knights of King Arthur's Round Table. It should embody Rizal's selflessness, fearlessness, and practicableness. Every Rizal Knight should, I believe, perform a "Dapitan" by applying to the life around him, as Rizal did during his exile, the Rizal ideas and ideals.

And whenever any of you enters upon this precious and lucid moment, I hope that you will decide to do your positive deeds in the area of rural uplift. For if we can improve our rural communities in the way Rizal envisioned, we shall also have built a progressive, happy, and enduring Philippine nation.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**Speech of President Garcia before the Business Writers' Association of the Philippines at the Manila Hotel, February 21, 1958**  
**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH BEFORE THE BUSINESS WRITERS' ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES AT THE MANILA HOTEL, FEBRUARY 21, 1958**

MEMBERS OF THE BUSINESS WRITERS'  
ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

AT NO other time in the history of the world have the destinies of nations and peoples been forged by influences and events outside their borders more than they are today. Side by side with the stirrings of awakening nationalism in many lands, we also find a growing consciousness of internationalism. This is true in the economic sense as well as the political.

We in the Philippines, probably more than any country in Asia, realize that our progress as a nation is closely linked to cooperation, friendship, and commerce with the citizens and businessmen of other countries; and that such relationships can be preserved without prejudice to our aspirations and political sovereignty. Let us say that just as they have something of value to give us, we believe we have something of value to offer them in return. In an economic relationship, as in any other field of human endeavor, mutual trust can only redound to mutual benefit.

I have chosen to stress this point, because my subject tonight is one which is vital to the economic advancement of the country, and yet may still be so easily misunderstood or misrepresented. I speak of foreign investment.

In economic terms, foreign investment may be defined as the accumulation of capital in a country derived from foreign sources. We find foreign investments in the Philippines spread through a cross-section of the economy—in basic industries such as mining, logging, agriculture, fishing, and manufacturing, as well as transportation, trade, building construction, and the professional services.

Foreign investments, including reinvested earnings, made up about 10 per cent of our gross domestic investments from 1950 to 1956.

The question naturally arises—why should we have foreign investment? Does not the entry of foreign capital create competitive difficulties for the domestic capitalist and tend to draw sectors of the economy under foreign control, leading to some loss of national sovereignty and dignity? Nationalism is a noble sentiment, and one to be proud of. But true nationalism does not reject external assistance on reasonable terms, especially when there is a scarcity of domestic capital to push through a rate of development that would ensure the economic well-being of the country.

We are an under-developed country, and like any of our Asian, African, and Latin-American counterparts, we are prone to what economists call “a vicious circle” of capital poverty. The main source of funds for domestic investment springs from individual savings, which in turn come from individual incomes. When the capacity to save is low, because of low individual incomes, there would indeed be little capital available to channel into manufacturing and trade. Without adequate capital, very little growth in productivity can take place, and this in turn would inhibit the improvement of incomes. Thus, the circle completes itself. Unless this circle of poverty is broken, stagnation or even regression would tighten its stranglehold on the economy as population continues to grow without compensating growth in production.

To complicate the picture, there are strategic economic sectors such as mining and pioneer industries where initial heavy outlays of capital and application of particular technological skills are needed over a period of time before profits or production can be realized. It is not surprising to find domestic private capital inadequate or hesitant to finance such ventures, which nevertheless would provide a necessary base for further industrial undertakings. In such cases, it would be logical to look for financing from abroad, derived from the savings of other people with higher incomes.



Our present needs and the manner in which we respond to them will, to a large extent, determine our future rate of development. Left to ourselves, we do not at present have the capacity to mobilize enough capital from our own resources to sustain the rate of economic development necessary for progress towards eventual self-sufficiency. We should not be reluctant therefore to seek and welcome bone-fide foreign investors who are willing to stake their capital in the development of our industries in anticipation of fair and reasonable returns.

Our country possesses vast natural resources and great economic potential, sufficient I am told, to support four times our present population. However, unless these resources are tapped and put to use, they can do no good for any of our people. The Surigao deposits, for instance, have an estimated potential yield of about \$2 billion in mineable nickel alone, plus \$1 billion in iron, manganese, and cobalt. Capital is the key that would unlock these latent resources and transform potential to reality. I am sure you will agree then that foreign capital coming in to supplement our own funds would be a boon rather than a hindrance to progress.

It would therefore be proper to appraise the investment climate existing in the Philippines today, with the object of improving it consistent with consideration of national interest and the legitimate expectations of the investor. Private business as well as the government should explore means of attracting additional foreign investments, especially into fields where they would generate the greatest benefit to the country in terms of production, utilization of domestic resources, creation of job-opportunities, and dissemination of technological skills.

We must not remain passive to the possibilities at hand. For instance, I believe that there is a real desire among highly developed countries to expand international investments, loans and assistance in underdeveloped areas. In fact it is estimated that international investment, excluding government grants and transfers, is averaging about \$2,000 million a year. However, we must compete with other capital-short countries for a larger share, by fostering an investment climate which would be reasonably attractive to foreign capital consistent with the risk involved and our need for such capital.

I think that conditions in the country today are generally favorable for foreign investment. We believe in the principle of private free enterprise, and our political atmosphere is orderly and stable.

Flow of foreign investments would, in a way, replace government financing which sometimes generates inflationary repercussions. New foreign investment brings with it its own foreign exchange requirements and its technical and administrative "know-how". However, we must also realize that the foreign capital we accept also commits our international reserve to the periodic remittance of profits abroad and the eventual repayment of the principal.

Under our system of controls, the foreign investor is allowed to remit abroad 25 to 100 per cent of his participation in the net profits of a firm annually, depending on the priority level of his business, which is based on its contribution to national income and employment, to the strengthening of the country's balance of payments position, and to the supply of essential commodities for the economy. Remittable profits in one year run to as high as 60 per cent of total foreign capital invested. Compare this to the 10 to 20 per cent range of profit remittance permitted by other underdeveloped countries. Furthermore, the investor may repatriate or transfer his original capital back to his home country. This is guaranteed after five years from the operation of the industry involved, at the rate of 20 per cent a year.

American investments, in particular, are afforded additional advantages. Under the Investment Guaranty Program of the I.C.A., currency convertibility of their profits and capital is insured, and they are protected from the risk of loss through expropriation, confiscation, or war. Under the Laurel-Langley, parity rights in land ownership, exploitation of natural resources and business privileges are also given.

It must be reiterated here that economic controls such as these governing remittance of profits are in effect out of temporary necessity. The Government has many responsibilities to discharge, such as labor employment and that of allocating whatever foreign exchange resources the country can pool in the most equitable manner consistent with overall economic goals. A wise use of foreign investment will help in mere employment for labor in the acquisition of industrial know-how, in a mere accelerated economic development and in many cases strengthen the confidence of nations in our government. At present, our unemployment is high and it is not yet possible to satisfy all the

demands for foreign exchange made upon our international reserve. However, the concerted efforts now being exerted during the period of austerity we have proclaimed should lead to the bolstering of the reserve to levels where the controls may be lifted without jeopardy to orderly and continued development. I reaffirm that these controls will be removed as soon as we can safely do so. We may not be rich in foreign exchange, if foreign exchange is measured in terms of gold and dollars. But if foreign exchange is measured in terms of marketable and varied resources awaiting development, we are blessed with abundance.

There are many other circumstances which the investor would find favorable. We may mention that Philippine corporate taxes are still among the lowest in the World, and over and above this, tax relief is available to investors, in the form of exemptions under Republic Act 901 for "new and necessary industries."

The Government has also undertaken extensive social overhead projects such as networks of first class and feeder roads, bridges, port and air terminals facilities, and hydroelectric plants to supply power for industry at low cost. For some of these projects, the Government has tapped international financial institutions. When the Biñga hydroelectric plant is in full operation in 1960, an additional 100,000 kilowatts will be available for use in Luzon. Two other big projects, the Ambuklao dam and No. 2 Unit of the Maria Cristina Plant can turn out a total of 125,000 kilowatts. There are 7 other smaller power projects supplying some 30,300 kilowatts.

Several basic industrial projects have been launched by the government to bridge the gap, into which private capital hesitates to venture at present, between heavy primary industries and secondary industries and for these projects we shall avail of all possible foreign credits and assistance to minimize the pressures on our international reserves. Examples of these are the Iligan Steel Mills which have just been completed for the production of merchant steel bars, and the pig-iron smelting plants in Iligan, Pangasinan, and Angat. Such plans form important links in the chain of steel industry integration which enables the country to process its own native ores instead of exporting them raw.

All of these things I have mentioned contribute to a healthy atmosphere for investment and a base on which private capital can build its firms and factories in reasonable security.

I feel it proper at this point to say something about the mutual responsibilities between the foreign investor and the host country. Without adhering to the strict formality of a written contract, there are nevertheless certain ethical obligations which the investor owes the country, and which the country in turn, owes the investor.

Probably the greatest fear of the foreign investor is the risk of nationalism and expropriation of property by the government. As far as the Philippines is concerned, such fears are groundless. We Filipinos believe in love of country and the right to chart our own national destiny under a democratic form of government. We also believe in upholding our dignity as a nation, by living up to any commitment that we may freely enter into. The most important guarantee to the foreign investor is that when he chooses to employ his capital in the Philippines, he can expect fair and equitable treatment.

The investor in turn has certain responsibilities to the country. For instance, that of making a sincere effort to understand our people and the manifold problems facing us in our struggle for economic progress; such as, labor employment, wage fairness, stability of international reserve, and fair returns for natural resources used in the case of those allowed by the Constitution to utilize them. It is only right that he should seek to make a reasonable profit, and enjoy it here or abroad. Like any Filipino citizen, he would enjoy the protection of our laws, but also be liable for its penalties if he should break them.

While expecting profit from his venture and risk-taking, the foreign investor must at the same time endeavor to accomplish tangible good for the country by channeling his capital into productive enterprises which fill a real need in the economic framework. In order to encourage capital flow to essential economic sectors, the government has established a priority system which makes it possible for the foreign investor to remit abroad a larger portion of his profits than would be allowed less essential enterprises.

I particularly call on foreign management to look to the technological, entrepreneurial, and wage advancement of their Filipino employees. They are co-workers in the success of the enterprise, and deserve due recognition and

compensation. All too often, the foreign corporation that decries and fears, nationalism seeks to reserve for itself complete ownership of the overseas firm as well as monopoly in its administration. Without realizing it, that corporation itself practices an insidious kind of nationalism.

On our part, the government can improve the climate for joint enterprise by assuring investors that excessive restrictions will not be imposed, and by making clear and valid definitions on the status of foreign investments in the country through a codification of the different laws and regulations covering such investments into one body of investment law. However, I realize that this investment law should not be a rigid statute, but must possess a certain flexibility which would provide for liberalization as changing economic conditions warrant.

But just as the foreign investor expects our investment law to be governed by reasonableness and common sense, we must expect his actions to be guided by the same rules.

Mutual trust and performance must go hand in hand. Agreements and commitments are not only to be made, and confidence avowed. Agreements must be kept, and actions must confirm that confidence. In this, I affirm the readiness of the government to do all that is reasonable to assure the congenial atmosphere in which foreign investor and Filipino businessman can effectively work together in the development of our resources. I call upon both to exercise what is best in the spirit of nationalism and internationalism. The immediate mutual benefits that can be garnered will be well worth the effort, and on a larger scale we shall all be brought so much closer to the goal to which we have long aspired—self-sufficiency and a measure of prosperity in an atmosphere of competitive but orderly free enterprise.

Nationalism and foreign investment on a collective basis are not necessarily incompatible. The latter under a climate of fairness and square deal and understanding can be harnessed to achieve the ultimate goals of the former. This America has done and this we can do.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines College of Law Library**

**OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**

**Statement of President Garcia at the close of the United Nations Regional, Seminar on the Protection of Human Rights in Criminal Law and Procedure, February 28, 1958**

**STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT AT THE CLOSE OF THE UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL, SEMINAR ON THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE, BAGUIO CITY, FEBRUARY 28, 1958**

IT THE CLOSE of this regional seminar on the protection of human rights in criminal law and procedure, I would like to express mixed feelings of optimism and regret; optimism that this liberal exchange between your countries and mine of experience and information on the juridical aspects of a great human document, will bear good fruit; and regret over the fact that you should leave the Philippines so soon. I hope that your association with us has been both pleasant and memorable. I am certain that this meeting with some of the most distinguished authorities from the Far East, Australia, and New Zealand, has broadened and enriched the legal backgrounds of our own leaders in the Philippines.

The purpose for which this regional seminar has been convened is, in effect, an application of the historical process whereby one nation borrows, institutions from another. You are familiar with the transplantation of the writ of *habeas corpus* from England to other countries in the original or in a modified form. The influence of the Napoleonic Code has extended far beyond French borders. And the American Declaration of Human Rights has not only refashioned the laws of other lands; it has also exerted its wholesome influence upon the condition of mankind. Now, the Declaration of Human Rights, first framed in Paris ten years ago, has thrown its protective mantle over all peoples of the world who believe in the same principles of human justice and dignity.

Since its adoption, the Declaration has made a telling impact throughout the world. Many of its provisions have been textually copied or incorporated in constitutions of new sovereign states, including Indonesia, Costa Rica, Syria, El Salvador, and Haiti. Agreements and conventions concluded under the auspices of the United Nations like the Somaliland Agreement and the Convention on the Status of Refugees, have used the Declaration as a guiding principle. The peace treaty with Japan signed at San Francisco on September 8, 1951, declares in its preamble that one of the purposes of the treaty is to enable Japan to "strive to realize the objectives of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights." In courts of justice, it has been invoked time and again in the protection of essential human freedoms.

Significantly, this regional seminar coincides with the tenth anniversary of that Declaration which has been proclaimed as "a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations." The participating nations have consistently striven to give meaning and substance to the basic human rights enumerated in the Declaration, particularly those referring to procedural safeguards or remedies against arbitrary arrest and detention, to recognition as a person before the law, to the presumption of innocence of the accused, and in word, to the older, recognized rights of life, liberty, and security of the individual.

Bitter forces have worked with violence and hatred against it. But they will, like angry waves of the sea, expand themselves futilely against the inflexible rock of man's deep-seated and eternal hope to live in a new social order where his fundamental freedom and dignity shall be recognized and respected.

Conceived as a pilot project of the United Nations, this regional seminar constitutes one of the means developed by the World Organization to promote and defend human rights. With great wisdom, the architects of the historic United Organization realized that between a blue-print and the actual erection of a house, there can be much heartbreaking failure if no sincere effort is made in the carrying out of the organizational plans. Regional seminars are steps towards the translation of principles enunciated by the Charter into the realities of the social order.

I need not remind you, for instance, that while the Declaration of Human Rights has tremendous moral force, it has no legal binding validity. It cannot be invoked successfully in any court to effect the release of thousand upon thousands now perishing slowly in slave labor camps. It cannot legally prevent that most odious of crimes; mass destruction of human groups. Two draft covenants, one on economic, social, and cultural rights, and another on civil and political rights, are, as you know, at present under consideration. This regional seminar concentrated in the effort of harmonizing and coordinating differing legal systems among our countries to the end that such covenants may, by international acceptance and under international responsibility, have binding legal effect throughout the world.

In the cordial and friendly interchange of opinions and recommendations relative to the implementation of the juridical aspects of human rights, the participants in this seminar have contributed in no small measure to the fund of information now being gathered on a global scale. I am confident that the researches, the sustained inquiries, and the sharing of differing legal experiences during this seminar shall have tangible and far reaching results.

It must be with a justifiable sense of achievement, my dear friends, that you should all look back to two weeks of unstinted dedication to the task of broadening and deepening the legal foundations of international peace and order and understanding. Through your daily contacts with one another and with my own countrymen, you have brought the United Nations closer to everyone and made a forward stride toward the attainment of the aims and fundamental objectives of the Declaration of Human Rights. In a most positive manner, you have helped in translating the Declaration into an effective reality in the lives of peoples the world over.

My country shares the deep interest of all nations over the need for stimulating action in the field of human dignity and rights through the holding of regional seminars such as this. Like all of you, we have struggled for what we believe, are our inalienable rights. Like you, we are prepared to fight for the freedom of persons which includes freedom from arbitrary arrest and the right to live and think as free men. And like you and your proud history of struggle against any force that would stultify your freedom to achieve and dare, we are ready to lend our unqualified support to the common effort against all forms of injustice.

I can confidently say that by this conference held in my country, we have made some progress in our march to world peace and freedom.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Message of President Garcia read by Executive Secretary Juan C. Pajo at the Manila Hotel on the occasion of the 5th National Convention of manufacturers and producers, March 14, 1958**

**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE READ BY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY JUAN C. PAJO AT THE MANILA HOTEL ON THE OCCASION OF THE 5TH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF MANUFACTURERS AND PRODUCERS, MARCH 14, 1958**

GENTLEMEN OF THE CONVENTION:

NO ONE can deny that the root cause of our difficulties as a nation is economic in nature. Again, no one can deny that our economic problems are largely due to insufficient production of our basic needs. This lag in production refers not only to our agricultural yield but more particularly to our manufacturing output.

History, buttressed by an abundance of statistical evidence, proves conclusively that no nation can aspire to the pinnacle of progress without learning and adopting the techniques of manufacturing. True, a nation may survive by merely relying on its agricultural and extractive industries but this will be at best a hand-to-mouth survival. Certainly we aspire for our country's future much more than bare existence. To achieve higher living standards and a better life for all, it is imperative that a nation develop a strong manufacturing economy.

You who are helping to do just that for our young country should find satisfaction in the knowledge that you are playing a vital part in your country's progress—a part whose importance your government recognizes and appreciates, and will do its best to strengthen and facilitate.

The Manufacturers' Convention of this year meets amidst an atmosphere of austerity. The times call for imagination, sacrifice, and dedication. Those of our national problems which arise from our over-dependence on foreign-produced consumption goods must rely for their permanent solution on you, the manufacturers of our country. Upon you devolves the duty of providing our more pressing needs in manufactured goods so that we may cut down our reliance on outside sources.

The pioneering work you are now doing in the manufacturing field, like all pioneering work, is fraught with difficulties and problems—problems which have to do mainly with high costs and a limited and somewhat indifferent local market. It is principally in recognition of the problems you face that I have proclaimed the celebration of Philippine Industry and NEPA Week.

The manufacturers of the country will have to rely mainly on the local market. Our people must, therefore, be taught to patronize local products, not only out of a sense of patriotic duty but also out of the necessity of maintaining an economic independence that is compatible with our political sovereignty. Our people must take pride in the produce of their fellow countrymen. They must realize that we cannot forever be dependent on what others produce for us. They must know that unless we achieve industrial progress, we cannot provide opportunities for employment.

But this patriotic duty does not devolve upon the consumers alone. The manufacturers have their own responsibilities. They must learn to go into the production of things needed, instead of unessentials which give greater short-term returns. They must learn to produce quality goods in order to earn the confidence of the consumers. In the process of educating local consumers' tastes, it is the manufacturers' obligation to produce goods whose quality is similar if not better than those of imported goods. To do this, they must endeavor to raise efficiency and reduce costs in order to bring down prices. For the consumers, therefore, austerity means cutting down expenses for unessentials and imported goods and a correspondingly greater patronage of locally-made goods. For the manufacturers, it means entering into those phases of production which utilize local raw materials, thus giving greater income to agriculture and providing opportunities for employment. Austerity is just the initial phase of the prosperity we all long for. It means an accelerated transition from a trade-oriented economy to an agro-industrial one, emphasizing the building of an industrial strength that is capable of manufacturing an increasingly large proportion of our essential consumer goods. It demands dedicated implementation if we are to realize our long cherished dream of progress, contentment, dignity, and prosperity.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia before the First National Convention of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines March 15, 1958**

**TEXT OF THE PRESIDENTS' SPEECH BEFORE THE FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE VETERANS FEDERATION OF THE PHILIPPINES DELIVERED SATURDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 15, 1958, AT THE MANILA HOTEL.**

FELLOW VETERANS, MY FRIENDS:

I COME before you with a light heart, happy to be able to identify myself with you and to greet you as my fellow veterans. Indeed, you have given me the opportunity to bring back to mind cherished memories of the days when, together with many of you, I was in the hills fighting for freedom. These days are dear to me. You who shared those lean days with me, and who perhaps suffered more, naturally occupy a special place in my heart.

Yes, my friends, I am partial to the cause of the veterans—the deserving veterans. The records will show that in my thirty-two years of public service I have always been on the alert for opportunity to serve the veterans.

I am intimately familiar with your problems and equally familiar with the obstacles that must be overcome before these problems are finally solved.

I would venture to say that these obstacles can never be overcome if the various veterans organizations continue to exist serving their own individual ends and working, more often than not, at cross purposes. It is for this reason, my friends, that I congratulate you most sincerely on the success of your efforts to unite all veterans organizations into a federation.

The unity you had just achieved is indeed a tribute to the selflessness of your leaders and individual members. It bespeaks of a highly developed farsightedness. It augurs a better future for the veterans movement. After all, when everything is taken to account, we realize that personalities do not last. Only ideas, causes, and movements, if great enough, gain permanence and immortality.

It is most significant that in the preamble to your Constitution you underscored unity of action and purpose among veterans to promote their general welfare.

May I digress, for a moment, to bring into a sharper focus the kind of unity that you must achieve to make your federation an effective instrument for the common good of the deserving veterans. The unity I speak of, my friends, is the unity that great men all over the world have exhorted their respective peoples to achieve. There is for instance the unity that that immortal martyr of India, Mahatma Gandhi, had defined so succinctly. It was during one of the dark periods of their fight for independence that Indian leaders were riven by rivalries. Gandhi told them: “There are 400,000,000 of us and, if we had the sense to breathe at the same time and exhale in unison, we could blow the rest of the British Empire off the globe.” The moral of course was unity. From there on it was easily sailing for the Indian people.

When we go back farther into history, we read that one development which revolutionized theories on political government was the great American experiment in banding to form what now we know as the United States of America. It was such a great example of what a people can do and achieve when united.

This is the brand of unity that should be made your goal. This is the kind of unity necessary to give meaning and greatness to ideas and movements. Anything less will fail!



It is likewise most significant that in the preamble to your constitution you have made known your desire to preserve the sacred ideals for which many of our brothers have died.

I take this to mean the preservation of the dignity, freedom, and democratic ideals of our people. I heartily concur with you in this regard.

Toward this end, our government has consistently pursued the policy of preserving freedom in our land if only to do honor and glorify the blood that was so nobly shed in our battlefields in defense of home, country, and our ideals.

Our foreign policy for this matter, my friends, has been aimed at strengthening the defense of freedom beyond our frontiers in collaboration with the rest of the free world.

The recently concluded conference of the SEATO is an eloquent testimony of our determination to preserve these ideals for which so many of you have sacrificed.

The solution, therefore, to many of your problems does not lie on the veterans alone nor on the government alone. Rather, my friends, it must be a joint effort—a partnership between government and the veterans.

With this unification of all veterans organizations which you have formalized today, this partnership may now proceed to carry out the noble task of faring the problems of the veterans more dispassionately and realistically.

On my part, I pledge to you my ever increasing concern for the welfare of the veterans and for the early resolution of the various problems facing the veterans today. In doing so, I shall consult with you from time to time.

May I ask you in return, my friends, to do your share in the great task of making our Republic robust and strong. I am sure you realize too well that the problems of the veterans cannot be treated in isolation from the rest of the problems besetting our country.

The welfare and well-being of the veterans must perforce be the welfare and well-being of the entire nation. It is well, therefore, that in your unification,—in your oneness of purpose and in your unity of action, it should permeate the national life. Your organization can be a potent instrument for the common good, not for the veterans alone but for the entire nation.

I urge you to help your government carry out its program for a better life and a brighter tomorrow. In the same breath, I must ask you to guard against the misuse of your organization by anyone for selfish reason.

To fail in this, my friends, to my mind would be the greatest disservice your organization can commit to the veterans.

May I ask you particularly, my friends, to guard against those who now would attempt to turn our people into a nation of negative thinkers who view, matters through the jaundiced eyes of the pessimists. You can help by encouraging and stressing the need for a really constructive criticism.

This, I assure you, I would welcome and consider a great service to the country.

Finally, my friends, the patriotism that fired you to stick to your posts against overwhelming odds in war should be the self-same patriotism that should now spur you to work and contribute to the prosperity of all. The role may be less epic, but I assure you it will require as much if not greater fortitude and courage.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia at the 1958 National Science Week, March 24, 1958**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the 1958 National Science Week**

[Delivered at Malacanang Social Hall on March 24, 1958]

THE BASIC solution of our main problems today— which are economic in nature—lies in more production. This is the imperative need of our country, towards which I have geared all government efforts so that in due time we shall become self-sufficient in our primary necessities: food, clothing, and shelter. In my inaugural address, in my second austerity speech, in my state-of-the-nation message, and in my budget message I stressed the urgency of greater production and indicated the ways of achieving it I also said that in this modern age when science has revolutionized old concepts and swept man into the fringes of outer space and revealed the illimitable potential of the atom, we should fully harness science to fill our needs and utilize scientific methods and discoveries to bolster our production.

The holding of the National Science Week is a determined move of our government to make our people conscious of the role of science in enriching our economic life through increased production. We are met this afternoon to launch a program of maximum and universal application of the bounties of science and technology in ameliorating the economic and social conditions of our people. It is fortunate that we have the capacity of achieving this.

Our country is richly endowed with a wealth of natural resources. We have an ample reservoir of manpower capable of exploiting these resources. I am certain that the full and wise employment of these resources and manpower will bring to us the blessings of abundance and prosperity.

The Government is committed to an intensified universal promotion of science. However, in the past, efforts proved ineffective because of lack of coordination and inadequate interest given to scientific work. But now there are compelling reasons necessitating a direction of the effort and a sustained interest in our undertakings in science. The task of determining our scientific requirements or what needs improving and intensifying is relatively a simple matter. However, that of policy, planning of programs, and documentation of financial needs are, I believe, fundamental in the success of our work.

Our science and technology efforts should be directed and integrated for maximum and immediate utilization. We must gear all efforts towards fulfilling economic self-sufficiency. The potential of our local resources needs exhaustive investigation, while the products of our scientific and technological endeavors must be widely disseminated for adoption and application by the agro-industrial sector. Of course, let us not forget the other aspects of fundamental and applied researches. They are as equally compelling, especially in the fields of medicine, biology, engineering and the social sciences.

In the light of our present economy, however, let us have more of directly beneficial applied science and undertake reasonable pure and fundamental research only as a tool for teaching our future scientists, engineers and men of related technical skills. The immediate and future impacts of our science should be adjusted to the ever-expanding requisites of everyday living. Scientific work should be aimed at increasing, expanding, and improving our production output. Under the austerity program, applied research should be given preferential attention and should be carried up to pilot plant scales in order that production facilities can adopt it with least hesitation. Pure and basic research will provide the training incentives and will be further employed for practical uses.

All these endeavors, however, are mainly dependent on technically trained personnel. Our technical manpower pool is still in its embryonic stage. The accomplishment of the urgent tasks we now have must depend upon those we already have, those who are now engaged in professional teaching in our colleges and universities, and those whom we may be able to draw from private sources. Our projective program should engender wider public support and realization of the vital need for highly competent technical manpower and the recognition that the development of professional and skilled personnel is largely dependent upon the effectiveness of our educational system. To this end we have to inculcate in our youth the opportunities and needs in science careers. We have to reexamine the status of science teachers to improve the teaching quality. Altogether, the promotion of science must be integrated into the broad base of society inside and outside of the classroom.

The present status of science facilities in schools leaves much to be desired. There should be provisions for better laboratories and equipment. In order, however, to afford adequate instructional and operational aids to our science personnel with the facilities which we have, it will be practical and wise initially to establish centers where engineer, scientist, industrialist, businessman, and educator can be brought together; Later on, when we shall have ample equipment and personnel, we can expand laterally to more utilization laboratories.

At present our specific projects are undertaken by various departments, bureaus, and offices. Related researches and significant studies are likewise done or assisted by government agencies like the National Science Board, the Institute of Science and Technology, the National Research Council, and the Philippine Science Foundation. There are individual and group researches being done by others. In order for us to strike a sensible and practical direction of this massive endeavor, it is necessary that this should be integrated, coordinated, and intensified. And this aspect is even made more urgent in view of flagrant unnecessary duplications which are costly in time, effort, and money.

The financing of research almost immediately comes to mind. The overall establishment of research entails heavy investments. For this reason, the government and private enterprises should join hands in fulfilling this basic prerequisite to success. Our laws and our facilities should seek the active participation and aid of private sectors and other extraneous sources which are the direct beneficiaries of research like the agro-industrial group, science societies, clubs, foundations, institutes, and laboratories. We should strive to draw support from foreign philanthropic institution and international bodies and groups. Then maybe we can really embark on a substantially financed science effort.

Another serious problem facing the science activity is the inadequacy of standards and documentation facilities. Our products have to come up to quality standards which have to be continually improved and analyzed. The current move by private industries to promote standardized quality products is to be encouraged and extended. Our technical libraries should contain information and documents not only of domestic research but also from countries where experimentations are advanced. We can thus have a rich reservoir of scientific knowledge, processes, and techniques from where we can draw basic and fundamental science and establish a solid base for extensive applied science.

During the period ahead, our greatest need is the provision of a comprehensive and logical pattern of our science and technology. For our immediate and short-range programs, let us embark on projects that will qualitatively and quantitatively substitute for specific imported goods. Let us strive to intensively increase production through scientific methods and let us expand our production facilities by the adoption of improved scientific diversification processes and techniques. Our long-range program of producing manpower for future needs and projects involving the basic and social sciences will be concurrently undertaken but the preponderant activity will still be in applied research directly usable for increased production in food, clothing, and shelter.

In this age of the atom, the jet plane, and the space ship, we cannot expect to keep up with the pace of progress if we cling to ancient notions and persist in pursuing old practices. We have launched a program of greater production of our essential needs to which we are putting to use the aid of science: I, therefore, appeal to all our people to rally behind this program whose success will mean the strengthening of our economy and the lasting happiness and prosperity of our people.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*



**Speech of President Garcia on Bataan Day, April 9, 1958 PRESIDENT GARCIA'S "BATAAN DAY"  
SPEECH DELIVERED WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 9, 1958, AT THE LUNETA**

MY FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

TODAY we commemorate a great moment in our history, for on April 9, 1942, a valiant nation succumbed to the force of numbers. On that day, the guns that heralded a nation's will to survive in freedom and dignity were silenced, and the lips of heroes who grinned defiance in the face of an onrushing horde were sealed, many in perpetual silence. But not for long. For the whispered words, "Bataan has fallen," which was beamed by a freedom radio station that fateful day, merely signaled the start of a liberation struggle that was to rank the Filipinos among the world's most intense and courageous freedom fighters.

The epic of Bataan and Corregidor has withstood the test of time and the incisive ruthless scrutiny of posterity. History has shown that while it was a defeat from the materialistic point of view of war, it was a victory in many respects. It showed the world how a people, determined to continue to be free, could; translate material defeat into moral victory. It also showed the world how a people, again desirous to continue to be free, could overcome material inadequacies and obstacles in its forward march to greatness and to a place of honor in the great family of nations.

In this respect, I must congratulate the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor for sponsoring the festivities commemorating the anniversary of the Fall of Bataan. It is well that we as a people take time out now and then from the hectic grind of our existence to commemorate, rededicate ourselves to the memory of the heroes and martyrs of that epic. In the warp and woof of that epic was beautifully woven Philippine-American heroism as shown when Filipino and American soldiers fought and died side by side on the bloody fields of Bataan, Corregidor, and other sacred spots. Facing common dangers, fighting for the common ideals of freedom, Filipinos and Americans wrote in astral fire on the summits of Bataan an immortal story of heroism and sacrifice in defense of country, liberty, and democracy. This common stand on the rock of freedom is both historic and prophetic.

Bataan, Corregidor, Capas, and other landmarks of the last war, are more than just symbols of a people's physical courage and undauntedness. Much more that they constitute a lasting testimonial to the quality of greatness of our people. Bataan and Corregidor, while assured of a place of honor in history, must therefore continue to fire the spirit of nationalism and to strengthen unity among our people. They must continue to inspire us into a life of peace, prosperity, and dignity.

They must continue to prove to us that in nation-building, as in war, sectional and partisan bickerings and breast-beatings have no place. Above all, they must continue to inspire in us the highest order of national discipline and unqualified patriotism.

I must deeply emphasize this last consideration because I believe that if there was any time in our post-war history when the need for the highest order of national dedication and selflessness on our part is greatest, it is at this stage of our national life. The disturbed state of our economy needs the institution of remedial measures which would entail degree of sacrifice on the part of our people.

In our determination, however, to put an end to the economic difficulties in which we have found ourselves, we must not lose sight of the fact that our problems are not limited to the economic field. We must endeavor—by providing the great masses of our people with the maximum essential services of government that they, as the backbone of the nation so truly and rightfully deserve. Within our means, we provide for the minimum requirements of our national defense and security agencies, to enable them to enforce our laws and guarantee the reasonable assertion of our sovereignty as a free and independent nation. Towards this end, we live up to our obligations as a member of collective and bilateral arrangements for peace and security. As a member of the United Nations, we stand squarely behind every effort that is designed to widen the scope and latitude, and to strengthen the stability, of world peace. In the same manner, we are quick to condemn unscrupulous and undemocratic acts of other countries, and espouse the right of captive peoples to freedom and self-determination. In the social field, we provide for the education of our youth and the invigoration of the social justice program of the government. We continue to provide

for adequate safeguards and guarantees for the continued enjoyment by our people of their political rights under our form of government. We continue to strengthen the foundations of our democratic institutions, in order to insure the stability and permanence of our free way of life.

To succeed in all these, it is necessary that we give to our country the full measure of our devotion. Government is not the sole and exclusive concern of those who govern. No government, unless it be a dictatorial one, can even as much as hope to succeed without the cooperation, support, and encouragement of the governed. We must, therefore, individually and as a people, strive to translate the intense fervor of patriotism and courage that we so nobly displayed in war, into a mighty force that will turn the wheels of progress for the country in peace.

Veterans of this country, you are the living segment of our heroes who fought to earn for us our right to freedom and progress. God has willed that you live, not to stand still as unmoving symbols, but to witness and participate and actively inspire the rest of our people, and to continue in other fields, not of battle, the fight for security, progress, and prosperity.

It is within the context of our past and in the perspective of the future, that we should view the present problems that we face. When the heroes and martyrs who have now become the subject of our song and lore, laid down their lives in the service of country and people, the welfare and happiness of this and future generations must have been uppermost in their minds. It is in appreciation of these sacrifices undergone for our sake by our forebears that we of this generation must strive towards the enhancement not only of our own lot, but also of the succeeding generations of Filipinos. Inspired by the example of nobility of character, patriotism, and service of those who in Bataan, Corregidor, and elsewhere, have hallowed the Filipino soil with their blood and the tears of their loved ones, we of this generation should endeavor to build in this part of the world a nation strong and united—a nation worthy of the toils and sacrifices of our forebears, and worthy of the 21st century.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Speech of President Garcia on the 10th anniversary celebration of the death of President Roxas, April 15, 1958**  
**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH ON THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT ROXAS, APRIL 15, 1958, AT CLARK FIELD, PAMPANGA**

LADIES  
OUR

AND  
AMERICAN

GENTLEMEN,  
FRIENDS,

MY FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

ON this solemn celebration of the 10th anniversary of the death of President Manuel Roxas, it was thought fitting and proper to do it here in Camp Clark, for this is the place, 10 years ago, where he drew the last breath of his earthly life. And this is the place where he said in fiery eloquence his last speech in the advocacy of enduring Philippine-American friendship. This is the hallowed place where his American friends marshalled the best of science in an effort to retrieve from the cold grip of death one of America's greatest and most sincere friends, President Manuel Roxas. It can, therefore, be said that he died in the arms of Filipinos and Americans who fought together to win the war for liberty and democracy and are standing together to win universal peace, freedom, and abundant life. Thus, as Filipinos and Americans jointly pay tribute to Roxas on this occasion, we rededicate Philippine-American solidarity tested in the crucible of war and constantly re-attested in the pursuits of peace.

What place does Roxas occupy in Philippine history? It might be too early now to render a definitive answer to this question. Let history have the perspective of time to do that. But, as one of his contemporaries, I feel that I owe it to history to make of record my opinion about Roxas, the man and the public servant.

Of Roxas as an orator and parliamentarian, I can attest, having been a member of Congress during his long incumbency as Speaker of the House of Representatives, that he had few equals in this country and abroad. Earnest, fiery, intense and colorful, prodigal in poetic rhythm, and rich in imagination, his orations fell like a symphony on the enraptured throng. He produced gemlets that sparkled with wit, and lines wet with tears. His paragraphs were iridescent as the rainbow and in every word were the pulse and breath of life. While at times he weakened his speech by an extravaganza of details, he never failed to lay the solid foundations of his thesis with care, adroitness, and art, from which he rose with magic skill and élan to the majestic peaks of eloquence. Patriotism and love of freedom were the signet of his glory. His last dying words were for freedom and democracy. He was a consummate artist in speech, who, as he willed, could be volcanic as Mayon, or lyrical as a perfect day in the flowering frenzy of May. He could be mellow and tender as the moonbeams overflowing a world of slumber, or fiery and iridescent as the famous sunset of Manila Bay.

As a nationalist statesman, he left an indelible impression in our history. For more than a decade, as Speaker of the House of Representatives, he contributed his best to constructive legislation in the Philippines. It was at this period of his life that he became a popular idol as Philippine spokesman in the United States for our supreme aspiration for independence. As President of the Philippine Senate for a year immediately after the war, he measured up to the most difficult situation in the midst of the wreck and ruin, the death and debacle bequeathed us by the last catastrophic war.

As a constitutionalist, Roxas played a brilliant and leading role in the drafting of our Constitution. This is a contribution to the building of our nation which will keep his memory ever green through the surging centuries of our national evolution and devolution. As a lawyer, his broad and profound mastery of the anatomy of the law, and his intimacy with the great streams, the currents and the tides of constitutional authority are legacies that he bequeathed to the nation through our Constitution. Among the intellectual constellation that shone in the Constitutional Convention, Roxas was one legal luminary who was most familiar with constitutional precedents that now rise as the peaks and promontories, the headlands and the beacons, of the fundamental law. This he also bequeathed to us as part of our constitutional patrimony by giving to that Immortal Charter solidity, breath, scope, vision, and retrospection.

He was also an economist of recognized ability who strengthened the Cabinet of the immortal President Quezon. As Secretary of finance, he was mainly instrumental in charting the economic policy of the Commonwealth, fashioned

to embrace even the economic planning for the then advening Philippine Republic. As an economist, perhaps the visionary and the romantic in him carried him to adventures too daring for time-tested, experience-proven sound public economy. But, after all, the path of progress and growth has always been adventurous.

As President of the Philippines that should have been the crowning glory of his career, perhaps it is too early now to make a just appraisal. Let history have the perspective of time before rendering definitive verdict. His administration was built on the broad, grand, and splendid plan, but time and the times deprived him of the chance to carry out these plans. He had his weaknesses and human limitations like any other mortal, for even greatness is moulded out of common faults. The difficult and even perilous circumstances of his times, the total collapse of our economy after the war, the moral breakdown left us by the war, the rising tide of man's cupidity and greed whose waves swelled even into Malacañang, all these and many others made his administration: a truly difficult task. But whatever you say of his achievement or of his failures and misfortunes, it can never be justly said of him that he faltered or wavered in the midst of almost insurmountable adversities. Afire with faith and aflame with determination, he nobly fought the battle of life until death crowned him with glory. To his eternal glory, even his unkindest critics admit that he performed a gallant and courageous leadership that won admiration from friends and foes, both here and abroad.

But Roxas the man was, to many of us, greater than Roxas the orator, the statesman, the soldier, or the economist. He was generous as autumn in the fullness of harvest, and hospitable as summer in the floodtide of joy. He was a loyal steadfast friend, a chivalrous enemy, and a magnimous victor. His heart was open as the gates of day and his rewards to friends flowed freely. Indeed, much of the condition that brought criticisms against him was due to his love and attachment to his friends, some of whom took undue advantage of his ever abounding generosity. Paradoxically, this was his virtue as a man that was his weakness as an executive. Of men like him hath Shakespeare once said: "He that loved not wisely but too well." He was a man of many paradoxical qualities, for as a fighter he was one through and through; yet, he had intellectual hospitality, tolerance, and broadmindedness. In fight, he was valiant; in victory, noble. He was a dreamer, a master planner, a romantic soul, the kind of leader who would build upon the physical truth a spiritual reality. And yet, he was human and, therefore, realistic—so realistic that in his pardonable weak moments as a realist, he allowed the interest of politics to override the higher interest of statesmanship. But for his sin none in the tribe of political Magdalenes is entitled to throw at him the first stone. He knew the human heart, its tides and currents, its calms and storms, and like a modern Sinbad he sailed emotion's troubled sea. A loyal and devoted husband, a kind and affectionate father, a true Filipino citizen and patriot, his death was truly an irreparable loss to the country.

As one of the architects of Philippine foreign policy, Roxas stood for the maintenance and constant improvement of Philippine-American friendship on the basis of equality and mutual respect of each other as sovereign countries. As a soldier-statesman, he fought side by side with Americans during the Second World War. It was in these times of perils and momentous decisions that he came to know better the American as a true and loyal friend. After the war, as first President of the Philippine Republic, it was his lot to lead the herculean task of reconstruction and rehabilitation of the country. He asked for American help and assistance and these were given generous measure by America out of the abundance of her love. In post-war era when the Philippine Republic started to build up its national defense and the United States as leader of the free world was preparing and planning for the global defense of democracy and freedom, our two countries entered into a mutual defense pact, as a result of which Camp Clark was established as a military base. This is one of the last official acts of President Roxas of further cementing Philippine-American partnership. It can therefore be justly said that among Asian statesmen of the time, Roxas stands out as one of America's greatest friends.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**



## **Speech of President Garcia on foreign trade**

### **Speech of His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia President of the Philippines On foreign trade**

[Delivered at the Winter Garden, Manila Hotel on April 28, 1958]

THERE is no doubt that trading and commerce with other countries represent a vital segment of our national life. They play a critical role in our economic life. Of our total population of 21.6 million today, probably about 8 million are dependent on export industries for their incomes. To a large extent, exports are the means by which the country obtains essential imports such as consumer commodities and capital goods so necessary to industry. The significance of foreign trade has been highlighted in our dynamic situation when we are undergoing a program of development. Our dependence on foreign trade constitutes the very foundation as well as the limiting factor of our economic growth.

This dependence on foreign trade saddles our economy with instability, in the sense that we are vulnerable to every buffering wind of inflation or ebb-tide of recession that sweeps over our trading partners, particularly the United States, from whom we buy 57 per cent of our imports and to whom we sell 53 per cent of our exports. Should the price of machinery which we purchase for our industries go up, for instance, while the price of copra which we sell abroad go down, we suffer in effect a cumulative loss.

The extent of our dependence on international trade can be gauged by the fact that total trade is equivalent to 24 per cent of our national income, and 21 per cent of our gross national product, while in the United States it comes to only 8 per cent of national income and 7 per cent of gross national product.

Even though growth in our total trade has slightly exceeded trade expansion in Asia and overall trade expansion throughout the world, this has been due to our large volume of importation necessitated by economic development and social amelioration. It is a well-known economic fact that outside of an improbable large scale foreign assistance, a country pays for its imports by its exports. Yet, in spite of its importance to the country, our export trade has not kept pace with the overall expansion of world trade. While world trade expanded more than 4 times from \$24.2 billion in 1937 to \$100 billion in 1957, Philippine export trade has barely tripled itself from \$153 million to \$428 million during the same 20-year period. Conversely, our share in world export trade has gone down when it should have gone up. Aggravating this slower rate of expansion vis-a-vis the world's total, the prices of our exports suffered more violent and frequent fluctuations than the prices of our imports, thus making necessary the frequent changes in our import policies. These have serious and disrupting impacts on many of our business activities. As all of you have experienced, the tightening of controls invariably led to a higher cost of living since importation of consumer goods is always the first to suffer restriction. It has also frequently interrupted: the flow of raw and semi-finished materials and machinery parts to domestic industries, thus giving rise to certain shortages and indirectly to some unemployment. It is this instability in our export earnings, accentuated by our mounting import requirements for development that induced the present foreign exchange crisis.

It is clear then that we are faced with a two-fold problem in this regard: that of stimulating trade, particularly on the export side to sustain our increasing development import requirements, and that of gaining a measure of economic stability by establishing balance between our import and export.

This undue dependence on foreign importation can only be assuaged in the long run by an increase in domestic production, especially in the face of a growing population. This implies the prosecution of an industrialization program not only to turn out more commodities for consumption and semi-finished raw materials for still further production, but to provide new employment opportunities as well. To achieve this end the government has sought to channel a greater proportion of our resources to productive fields. Of course, since our resources are limited, this has meant some short-run sacrifice to the consumption sector.

Any development program pursued by an underdeveloped economy necessitates large initial expenditures of foreign exchange for the purchase of industrial equipment and certain raw materials. Thus, the country's earnings and holdings of foreign exchange set an effective boundary to any scheme of economic expansion. The bulk of our foreign exchange is supplied by our exports; and where export and other earnings fail to meet import requirements, payment must be made from the international reserve.

It is worthy of note that while imports expanded 5 per cent since 1949, exports have expanded 74 per cent. However, even this expansion was not enough to cover the high level of importation required by development. Since 1949 we have imported \$4,784 billion worth of commodities while our foreign exchange earnings only came to ₱4.504 billion. As a result, our international reserve has been drawn down to a level around \$150 million. We cannot allow our reserve to fall further without risking currency stability, and we must therefore balance our development efforts with the resources we have at our command.

In this rephrasing of the economic offensive, the stepping-up of our export production is a most important task. Increased exports would mean increased foreign exchange earnings, and a wider latitude within which to pursue our goal of economic development. Also, steps should be taken to diversify our export trade over a broader range of commodities and directed towards a greater number of countries. This is an imperative necessity to remove or at least minimize the element of instability that has plagued us in the past owing to over-concentration in a few major products subject to price fluctuations in the few countries that commanded the bulk of our trade. Such diversification would broaden the base of export demand for our products, which would directly influence our exchange earnings and the potential level of imports necessary to our economic well-being.

What in brief are the prospects of our foreign exchange earnings during 1958? Economists believe that while value of export sales may not rise significantly over 1957 levels, we might realize an increase in dollar savings through a tightening of barter regulations and an ebb of consumer demand for imported commodities as the rise, in domestic production begins to take effect.

Our major crops, sugar, coconut products, and abaca, face, additional loss of preference in the U. S. market this year as gradual increasing duties are applied, and exporters should now try to cultivate other markets throughout the world, as well as exploit the export potentials of relatively new or expanding commodities. We may mention minerals, for one, and woodwork and rattan crafts, for another. Large timber resources in the country are still untapped; but we have noted with pleasure that greater investment in timber and plywood industries during the past year are beginning to yield good prospects for export expansion.

Increased processing of our products before export would be a practical way of boosting export earnings, while opening to more of our people socio-economic benefits in the way of employment and training in productive enterprise. Of course, the development of an oilseed crushing industry, for instance, would tend to increase coconut oil exports at the expense of copra; the establishment of copper smelting plants, to increase copper exports at the expense of copper ore. However, these refined products command higher export prices owing to added value through manufacture. These projects, besides creating additional domestic income, would be able to make substantial contributions to our foreign exchange resources.

On the part of the government, we shall certainly consider priorities and the incentives for industries which engage in extensive processing of local raw materials to higher forms before export. I have stated this in my state-of-the-nation message, and I wish to emphasize it again.

The acceleration of the diversification of our export trade could be greatly assisted by establishing research centers, promoting market studies, and improving the quality and greater utilization of the by-product.

Even as of now, our Bureau of Standards is devoting its utmost to improve the quality of our manufactures and the PHILCOA is to be commended for its vigorous efforts in trying to raise the quality of copra. Nonetheless, it is disturbing to note that in spite of the fact that we are the No. 1 copra producer in the world today, the quality of our product is in danger of falling below that of Indonesia and Ceylon. In a very competitive market like Europe, quality would spell a difference between expanding our market or losing it.

While economic functions of our diplomatic offices abroad shall be broadened so that they may aid actively in the search for new markets for our products, we must also expect our export-producers to strive continually to improve the quality of the products so that foreign buyers will be able to look to our country as a reliable supplier of their needs. How well do businessmen know that a satisfied customer is a steady customer and the best advertiser one can get!

Furthermore, we must exhaust all devices towards realizing the objective of greater export production within the next few years if our hopes for development are not to be frustrated. One step yet under study is the inclusion in our international reserve of stable and freely convertible currencies other than U. S. dollars, such as the Swiss francs and the Deutsche-Marks, would serve to promote beneficial contacts between our financial institutions and traders and their counterparts in the countries whose currencies we will use. The pros to this idea contend that this contact would be productive of closer commercial and financial relations which would certainly have a stimulating long-run effect on our trade with those parts of the world. Direct payments from Germany may encourage German purchasers of copra and other Philippine export products like abaca to deal directly with our exporters rather than through brokers in Amsterdam, London, or New York. Thus, by dealing directly, the Philippine exporters may be able to obtain better prices and better terms for their commodities and, consequently, realize more foreign exchange earnings.

Conclusions on this matter however, are yet to be reached in Congress not in councils. We are fully aware that to bring about an increase in exports that will balance with increasing import requirements of our development program is not easily attainable within the next year or so even if all our efforts were exerted and resources directed towards that end. Only an unlikely event like an oil strike would immediately boost our foreign exchange earnings to significant figure. Otherwise, we must undergo the tedious processes necessary to raise productive capacity in agricultural and manufacturing industries which we hope to achieve with some American assistance. In the meantime, we can strive to maximize our use of what foreign exchange resources we have by encouraging projects most contributory to national income and employment. Economies in production through more efficient operation of existing plants can still be exploited, and simultaneously take exercise of strict budgeting of foreign exchange. They must strive to produce locally produced raw materials. Many basic materials of local origin can now be generated to substitute for a number of raw materials we yet import for our industries.

As I have emphasized before and will do so again, we must achieve self-sufficiency in foodstuffs. Despite the increases that have occurred in our agricultural production, its slower rate of growth vis-a-vis manufacturing production, increase in population, and effective demand acts as a brake on economic development. We must remember that food imports compete with capital goods in straining our foreign exchange. The attainment, therefore, of our goal to make the country self-sufficient in food would constitute a big stride toward the attainment of the higher goal—a well-balanced foreign trade and stability of our currency.

While we strive our utmost to increase export earnings it is also thought desirable to seek foreign credits to tide us over to the period of productivity of our export industries and to the time of our achieving relative self-sufficiency in food, shelter, and clothing. Foreign economic assistance, it is believed, will materially help us in the difficult task of carrying our economy over the first crucial phase, and will enable us to realize this within a shorter span of time. Such foreign credits is wanted until such time as our economy has accumulated enough productive capacity not only to sustain itself but also to generate the continual expansion required by a growing population and our aspirations for higher standards of living. This is economic security we desire to achieve in our time in which the masses of our people fully partake of its blessings.

**Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1958). President Garcia's speech on foreign trade, delivered Monday, April 28, 1958, at the Winter Garden, Manila Hotel. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 54(9), 2855-2859.

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia on Labor Day, May 1, 1958**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA’S LABOR DAY SPEECH DELIVERED THURSDAY EVENING MAY 1, 1958, AT THE INDEPENDENCE GRANDSTAND**

KALIHIM  
MGA  
DAKILANG MGA MANGGAGAWA NG ATING BAYAN:

CASTAÑO,  
PANAUHIN,

NGAYON unang araw ng Mayo, ang buong bansang Pilipino ay nagpupugay sa karangalan ng ating mga manggagawa na siyang tunay na haligi ng pagkakaisa at lakas ng ating bayan.

Bilang Pangulo ng Bayang ito, matamis kong tatanggapin ang lahat ng upasala sa akin, mabigyan ko lamang ng taos na kajigayan at magandang kinabukasan ang lahat na manggagawa sa ating Bayan.

Lubhang nakapagtataka na kung sino pa ang niaghawa sa buhay ay siya pa ang maraming daing o sinasabi sa pamahalaan, nguni’t ang mga mahihirap at api sa buhay ay siyang nakapagtitiis upang bigyan ng sapat na pagkakataon ang pamahalaan upang isaayos ang ating kabuhayan. Kung ating suriin ang pamumuhay nitong magagaling na mga lalaking ito, sila ang walang nagagawa upang tulungan ang kalagayan ng mga manggagawa sa ating Bayan.

Ako ang una na nagsabi ng tapat sa Bayan na maselan ang katayuan ng ating pamumuhay ngayon, Alam ko na ako ay pupulaan sa ginawa kong pagtatapat na iyan. Nguni’t naglakas loob akong magtatapat upang lahat tayo ay magkatulong-tulong upang itawid ang ating Bayan sa landas ng kagipitan. Sabagay, mga kababayan, itong kagipitang ito na nilalasap natin ay hindi lamang sa ating Bayan. Ito ay dinaranas ng buong daigdig ngayon. Pati ang mga Bansang pinakamayaman sa lahat ay nakararamdam ng kagipitang ito sa kanilang pamumuhay. Ano pa kaya ang Pilipinas na maliit na bansa at bago pa lamang nagsasarili?

Ang pagtuklas ng paraan upang magamot ang ating mga suliranin ay hindi niakukuha sa init ng ulo. Ni hindi sa dalos-dalos na mga paraan. Mahinay man nguni’t sigurado ay tiyak na mabuti kay sa mabilis kung pamalimali ito.

Kung mayroong dapat pasalamatang tayo ngayon ay walang iba kung hindi ang mga manggagawa ng ating Bayan. Sila ang lalong api, nguni’t sila ang patuloy na tumutulong sa pamahalaan; sila ang salat sa ginhawa sila ang marunong lumingap sa kabutihan ng Bayan.

Higit na mahalaga sa akin na ang ating mga manggagawa na siyang bumubuo ng nakararami sa ating bayan ay mabigyan ng lalong malaking bahagi ng mga biyaya sa buhay at ang bawa’t isa sa kanila ay mapagkalooban ng isang masagana at matatag na pamumuhay. Ito ang nangingibabaw sa aking puso.

Sa pagkakatatapng ito, nais ko na pasalamatang ang mga manggagawa sa ating Bayan sa lahat ng tulong na kanilang ibinigay sa ating pamahalaan. Ako ay nagalak na ipagtapat sa inyo na ang mga ibang bansa, pati ang America, ay nagtaka kung bakit sa gitna ng kahirapan na ating dinadama ngayon, wala tayong mga maseselan na aklatan o welga, isang bagay na hindi nangyari sa alin pa mang bansa. Ito ay isang tanda ng mabuting ugali ng ating mga manggagawa: sa kanila ay walang hindi maaring matiis kung ito ay sa ikabubuti ng Bayan.

Nais ko ring kayo ay pasalamatang sa ginawa ninyong pag-tatangol sa aking maliit na sarili nang ako ay hamakin ng isang pahayagan ng isang bansa na malapit pa naman sa ating puso.

Ang lahat ng ito ay hindi ko maaring malimot, at sisikapin ko na kayo ay suklian sa pamamagitan ng isang paglilingkod na tapat at dalisay.

Ako ay umaasa na ang mga liwanag ng mga sulo na inyong dala sa parada ngayon, ay siya ring liwanag na tatanglaw sa landas ng magandang kinabukasan ng ating Bayan.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat!

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**[English translation] Speech of President Garcia on Labor Day, May 1, 1958**

The following is the English version of President Garcia's Labor Day speech:

SECRETARY  
DISTINGUISHED  
BELOVED WORKERS OF OUR COUNTRY:

CASTAÑO,  
GUESTS,

Today, the first day of May, the Filipino people salute our honored workers, laborers, and employees who are the real backbone and strength of our country.

As your President of our Republic, I will gladly accept all criticisms against me provided that I could give my all for your needs and your bright tomorrow.

But, paradoxical as it may seem, those who are better placed in life are the ones who cry most for assistance by the government, while the poor, unsung workers and laborers silently suffer so that they can give better opportunities for this administration to put our country in order and improve the economic life of the Filipino people. Thus, if we scrutinize the lives of those who complain most, we find that they are far richer than any of us and, what is worst, they do nothing substantial for the development of our country and people.

You will remember that I was the first to announce that our country is experiencing difficulties in its economic struggle, and I know that I have been bitterly criticized for this pronouncement. But I braved the ire of my critics because I knew that the whole nation would work with me, cooperate with me, and rally behind the Administration in a common effort to salvage the country from economic difficulties.

Of course, my countrymen, we are not alone in our present economic state, because the whole world is experiencing it, too. Even the richest countries in the world are suffering the effects of economic disequilibrium. And so, how much more for our country?

I am sure that you will agree with me when I say that we cannot solve our economic problems through heated discussions, much less can we seek the remedy half-hazardly. We are going to solve our economic ills slowly but surely.

My friends, in all sincerity and honesty, I must say that, whatever progress our country has achieved today, we owe it in great measure to the masses of our laboring class who are the most forgotten but who nevertheless give their utmost for the many aspects of life, who are willing to sacrifice for the common weal and glory of our native land.

That is why I tell Secretary Castaño, it is less important for me that the rich became richer than that the laboring class which constitute the greater, portion of our masses be afforded in our economic set-up a fair share in the blessings of life with improved economic stability and security."

On this opportune occasion, I wish to thank all the laboring class of our country for all their assistance and support that they have given and extended to my administration. I am happy indeed to confess to you that other nations, including America, are surprised that, notwithstanding our present economic difficulties, we have no serious labor strikes—a condition that has never existed anywhere in the world. This, to me, is a good and excellent index of the good qualities of Philippine labor—that in times of national stresses this class is willing to take full share of our denials and sacrifices.

I also wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart when you—Philippine labor—bravely defended me against a magazine article of a country which happens to be close to our heart. For all your generous considerations for me, I can only promise and pledge that I shall do everything in my power to serve you all.

I have my high hopes that the brightness of your torches which you carried throughout the parade, will be the same brightness to light the glorious tomorrow of our Country.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**

**Speech of President Garcia on the unveiling of Eisenhower's Marker at Malacañang, June 6, 1958**

**THE PRESIDENT'S SHORT SPEECH ON THE UNVEILING OF EISENHOWER'S  
MARKER AT MALACAÑANG, JUNE 6, 1958**

NEARLY thirty years ago this room was occupied by a quiet and unobtrusive United States army major whose main obsession was his own concept of duty. Major Dwight D. Eisenhower, military adviser to the President of the Philippine Commonwealth, was respected and admired by those of us who knew him then, for his hard work, reasonable optimism, and a sturdy fidelity to what he felt was right. Here, in this very room the man who was destined for the Presidency of the greatest country in the world, patterned the defense of our country.

The kind of character Major Eisenhower possessed definitely endeared him to the heart of the Filipinos and indeed marked him for great things. But little did anyone suspect at that time, that the military career which virtually began here would one day find climax upon the seat of the United States chief magistracy.

We should be proud of the fact that we have in this great man a friend and a benefactor having at one time participated in the building up of our young and struggling Republic. In installing this commemorative plaque, let me remind ourselves constantly that here worked a man who gave his talent, courage, and devotion to the service of our country. And be proud too that from this very room, Dwight D. Eisenhower started with his brilliant career that culminated in being President of the United States and a sincere friend of the Philippines.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**



**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia at turn over rites of Simon de Anda Monument at the Port Area, June 8**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH AT TURN OVER RITES OF SIMON DE ANDA MONUMENT AT THE PORT AREA, SUNDAY MORNING, JUNE 8, UNDER AUSPICES OF THE MANILA LIONS.**

WHY must the memory of Simon de Anda y Salazar, a Spanish governor-general, be immortalized in Philippine history? Why should a monument be erected to perpetuate his name? These are questions that must be answered on this memorable occasion that we set aside to rededicate the monument in his honor. I will start by saying that Simon de Anda transcended his time. Sent by Spain as a colonial governor over the Filipinos in 1770 at a time when colonialism was generally identified with abuses, oppression, and exploitation of the colonized masses, Simon de Anda on the contrary defended the Filipinos from such injustices and despotism.

Simon de Anda was a hero in three important episodes of Philippine history.

First, when the City of Manila capitulated to the British invaders in 1762, Simon de Anda, then a simple member of the Audiencia of Manila, rebelled against that decision of the government of Spain in the Philippines. He fled to Bulacan and Pampanga and organized the resistance movement against the British occupation. He headed a strong organization of guerrillas composed mainly of Tagalogs and Pampangos to engage the British in a war of attrition until the latter took to their war vessels to return to India in June, 1764. It was therefore Simon de Anda with his guerrilla forces that forced out the British from the Philippines and it was to him that the proud British bowed. Failing in their conquest, they returned the City of Manila to the Spanish rule one year and eight months after they had entered it in triumph. Anda was the towering hero of the whole episode.

Second, after this significant victory, Simon de Anda returned to Spain where he was received by his king and his people with the honors and glories of a returning victor. He could have concluded his career in the midst of the hosannas and laurels showered upon him by a grateful King and a grateful and idolizing people, but his great soul prodded him to go back to the Philippines, the place of his glorious exploits to undertake a messianic task. This mission was to redeem the Filipinos from the abyss of oppression and tyranny by friars. At that time this undertaking was definitely quixotic, but men like Anda anointed by Destiny of greatness did not falter or waver. He accepted the offer of his King to be the governor-general of the Philippines only after he presented a memorial dated April 12, 1768, in which he depicted to the King of Spain the deplorable conditions in the Philippines, and frankly expressed his desire to put an end to it. It was a memorial in which he fearlessly denounced the oppressions and abuses committed against the Filipinos in the name of the Spanish sovereign and he accepted the governor-generalship only upon assurances that in that capacity he could redress the grievances of the Filipinos.

When he returned to the Philippines as governor-general in 1770, he discharged that high office with the greatest courage and high determination to govern the Filipinos with justice and to grant them the enjoyment of the inalienable rights of man. He did his best and his utmost to restore the good name and prestige of the Spanish sovereign to the love of the people of the Philippines who learned to hate Spain and its King because of the transgressions of the rulers sent here. Unfortunately, however, Anda came too early for his time. He was misunderstood, maligned, and mistrusted by his fellow countrymen in the Philippines until death ended his incumbency in 1776. At his tragic end only his Filipino friends whose affection and love and devotion he won, were at his bedside. When the end came the reactionary forces and the forces of obscurantism rejoiced. He died without achieving much of the noble program that prompted him to come back.

But his sacrifices were not in vain. His ideals of justice and equality germinated in the heart of succeeding generations of Filipinos. Many more heroes and martyrs followed his footsteps in the fight for the redemption of the Filipinos. After him came Rizal who denounced in burning language the same abuses, the same oppressions, that Simon de Anda tried to fight in his time. After him came Bonifacio with the galaxy of Filipino heroes and revolutionaries to keep aflame the fight for justice and the fight for the human rights of the Filipinos.

The third great historic crusade of Simon de Anda, celebrated in Philippine history, is his gallant fight for the rights of Filipino priesthood. When Simon de Anda was yet a member of the Audiencia, the fight for the secularization of the parishes in the Philippines came to a head. So when he came back as governor-general, he advanced the secularization movement by ordering that the parishes be vacated by regular religious orders and turned over to the Filipino priests who had long been held down because of race and color prejudice. This order hit a hornet's nest and the friars flung the gauntlet and fought back. They disobeyed the orders of periodic visitations of the parishes, denied the Archbishop of Manila of the power of visitation under Anda's order, and there started a turbulent fight between the Governor-General and the friars which ended by a final Royal Decree whereby the secular parishes were forcibly taken from the hands of the Filipino priests and returned to the friars as their private preserve. Anda failed to retain the continued support of his King.

Again, the fight of Simon de Anda for justice to the Filipino priests ended in a failure at that time. Anda came too soon for his time. But after his defeat, however, other brave souls picked up his fights and continued until justice was achieved. So many martyrs like Burgos, Gomez, and Zamora had to give up their lives for the rights of the Filipino priesthood for which Simon de Anda, Spanish governor-general, fought so nobly and so heroically. This was one of the greatest issues involved in the Philippine Revolution of 1896, and this was one of the issues that inspired the pen of Rizal and Plaridel and glorified the sword of many other illustrious heroes of our country. Simon de Anda, a Spaniard, led the fight that ultimately made it possible for Archbishop Santos, Rosales, and many other church dignitaries to occupy the exalted position in the church they now hold. To Simon de Anda they owe eternal gratitude.

Thus, Simon de Anda deserves the undying gratitude of our country. Spaniard as he was, yet he fought for justice to Filipinos and for doing so he paid a high price which only great souls are willing to do. He fought against abuses, oppression, and corruption, whether perpetrated by a white, brown, or black man. He lost the love of his own fellow countrymen because he did not want to lose the love of his God, who is the source of eternal justice, of truth, and of the right. But let Simon de Anda know that if he had lost the love of his own countrymen, the Filipino people for whom he fought and died, will forever treasure his name as one of the greatest benefactors of their country. Simon de Anda! Rest in peace and rest with the assurance that the Filipinos who loved you in 1776 still love you now and forever!

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**Message of President Garcia upon his arrival at the Mats Terminal, Washington, D.C., where he was met by President Eisenhower and High United States Government Officials, June 18, 1958**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S STATEMENT UPON HIS ARRIVAL AT THE MATS TERMINAL, WASHINGTON, D.C., WHERE HE WAS MET BY PRESIDENT EISENHOWER AND HIGH UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, JUNE 18, 1958**

MR. PRESIDENT, Mrs. Garcia and I would like to thank most warmly for your kindness in receiving us here today. Your gracious words of welcome have touched me deeply, and my heart is full. Any head of state who is thus welcomed in this lovely capital city of the free world would have this overwhelming sense of joy and pride. But for a president of the Philippines this acquires a special quality. I come not as a stranger to the land, and not merely as one of your many friends and allies. For I bring with me the affection of a grateful people with whom America has shared the priceless blessings of liberty, a nation that has stood loyally side by side with America and would do so again, to defend freedom in the world if ever the occasion arises. For me, therefore, this is a kind of spiritual homecoming. Your presence here, Mr. President, enhances this feeling. As one of the Great Americans who saw service in the Philippines, you are a living witness to the indestructible bond of common ideals that hold our two peoples together. I have come to give fresh assurance of our undying fidelity to those ideals, and I feel honored and happy that I can offer this assurance to you in person.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Speech of President Garcia before the Joint Session of United States Congress in Washington, D.C., June 18**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH BEFORE THE JOINT SESSION OF UNITED STATES CONGRESS IN WASHINGTON, D.C., AT 12:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18 (12:30 A.M., THURSDAY, MANILA TIME)**

MR. VICE-PRESIDENT,  
MR. SPEAKER, AND  
HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS:

FROM THE BOTTOM of my heart I thank you for this high honor you have accorded me by inviting me to speak to the great American nation through its Congress.

I come here on behalf of the Filipino people, your best friends in Asia who live in the faith that the heart of this great American nation has for them a soft spot. I speak for 23 million Filipinos who renew the vow that we stand by this great nation, the United States of America, as long as her leadership of the Free World continues to be nobly dedicated to the supreme cause of world freedom and peace.

In pledging help to the friends of freedom everywhere to achieve their own security and well-being, the United States, through President Eisenhower, said: "Recognizing economic health as an indispensable basis of military strength and the Free World's peace, you shall strive to foster everywhere and to practice yourselves policies that encourage productivity and profitable trade."

On this state visit of mine to your grand country—thanks to the hospitality of your great President and people—I hope to avail myself of the opportunity to exchange with you renewed pledges of Philippine-American solidarity on the basis of equality, mutuality of interest, and identity of ideals. This is also an opportunity to reiterate the resolve that we the Filipino people, within the limits of our capabilities, will assume our just burden in the common defense of freedom and in the common pursuit of peace.

Twelve years ago, on July 4, 1946, you granted us the precious boon for which we had longed and fought through almost four centuries: our independence. You gave it not by compulsion but by a voluntary sovereign act. You gave it as free men and as champions of freedom and in just recognition of the fact that we deserved it, and were willing to assume its tremendous responsibilities. With our cities and provinces buried at the time under the ruin and rubble of the world's most devastating war, with the national economic structure wrecked by four years of ruthless enemy occupation, with our industries despoiled and destroyed, and our agriculture neglected, we nevertheless gladly accepted the responsibilities of independent nationhood.

We then believed, as we still do, that with freedom and independence as our instrumentality and with the courage and determination of our people as our inspiration, we could build again what had been destroyed, we could restore what had been lost, and could establish a regime of justice, liberty, and democracy.

We in the Philippines like to believe that in our 12 years of independent national existence, we have proved to the world that we have not betrayed America's trust and confidence. We like to believe that we have shown that your 50 years of arduous and altruistic effort to help us prepare for our independence were neither fruitless nor wasted. We like to believe that the thousands of American soldiers who fought with us in Bataan, Corregidor, Leyte, and other hallowed places, did not fight or die in vain. We like to believe that the financial assistance you have given for our country's reconstruction and rehabilitation after the war bespoke the gratitude of the American nation to the Filipinos who were confronted with the double task of building the foundations of the Philippine Republic and at the same time rebuilding what had been destroyed during a war fought for a common cause. We think that in 12 years we have, with your assistance and inspiration, successfully completed the task of reconstruction and restoration.

Now, as we start a new chapter in the unending work of nation-building, we face another great challenge; namely the building of a national economy capable of affording to the humblest citizen of a democratic Philippines economic well-being, social security, and stability. We are determined to succeed in this task. Only then shall we be

able to establish the validity of claim in Asia that the product of 50 years of Philippine-American collaboration is a democracy that offers to its people the reality of a free and abundant life. We shall have proved that freedom means the building up of human dignity, that democracy means more productivity on the farm and in the factory and more harmony and contentment in the home; that liberty means the utilization of our national resources and the full employment of our manpower for the enrichment of our lives and the winning of peace and contentment. By our success in this endeavor, we hope to be able to demonstrate to the world that not communism, but democracy, which stimulates productivity of mind, the heart and the hand, is the answer to the needs of the hungry and the prayers of the oppressed in Asia: that democracy which is founded upon the eternal verities is the answer to the spiritual wants of one billion Asians, as it is the answer to the material wants of more than half of mankind.

In this great task we ask for your understanding, your encouragement, and your assistance—not your charity. We need your faith. We seek from you the strength to make our country an effective force for democracy in Asia.

The historic role of the United States in Asia, in my humble view, is far from completed. It is true that by the grant of the Philippine independence you have started a libertarian cycle of far-reaching consequences, resulting in the independence of other Asian countries like India, Burma, Ceylon, Indonesia, and lately, Malaya. And I would add that this cycle which has rolled on irresistibly into Africa, will not be completed until every nation of the world shall have become free and independent.

Nevertheless, may I be permitted to suggest that the logic of events and the dynamics of history will not permit the United States of America, the recognized leader of the Free World, to stop there. She led triumphantly the forces of freedom in two world wars. She gave the best of her gallant youth to redeem the cause of liberty. She has given billions of dollars of her substance to help break down the ramparts of poverty, ignorance, and disease, and to clear the way for a better world. But when these battles have been won, destiny yet calls on America to continue leading the forces of freedom and democracy in the battle for a universal peace founded upon justice, liberty, and economic security. The last war taught us to reject isolationism as a national policy. It compelled us to accept the principle of the fundamental unity of the human race—the brotherhood of man. The peace and freedom of Asia, where one-half of humanity lives, is therefore unavoidably the concern of the free world of which the United States of America is the acknowledged leader. Asia must therefore be won for democracy. She must be Won for peace. To the end, Asia should be helped to develop a political, economic, and social climate in which freedom and peace can flourish. Asia, the birthplace of the greatest religions of the earth, must not be allowed by the folly of passive indifference to fall under the control of a godless ideology. Asia, with her thirst for capital and modern technology, must be won to the conviction that democracy can lead her out of the depths of poverty to the heights of fulfillment. She must be convinced that the democratic ideology which contains the eternal truths preached by Christ and other great religious leaders, prophets, and poets is in modern times the ideology that can best satisfy her deep spiritual longings.

In the fields of commerce, industry, agriculture, art, and science, the Asians should be led to the conviction, not by words but by deeds, that human dignity and human freedom are the highest interests of democracy everywhere; that democracy is the sworn foe of oppression, intolerance, social injustice, and economic insecurity everywhere; and that democracy stands squarely on the principle that the state was created for man and not man for the state. These being the very principles upon which American democracy stands, it is difficult to conceive that her leadership coupled with understanding and helpful and imaginative policies, should fail to win the heart of one billion Asians whose deepest longings are freedom from want, freedom from fear, freedom to grow and develop in peace, and freedom to lift themselves up from abasement of the body and the spirit.

The Filipinos happen to have culture that is an amalgam of the best in the Asian, Latin, and Anglo-American cultures. It is the only country in Southeast Asia where the overwhelming majority of the people profess the Christian faith. By geography and racial affinity we are of the East, and by culture we are of the West. Our jurisprudence is a confluence of Asian, Latin, and Anglo-American jurisprudences. The greatest of our writers wrote in Spanish, Tagalog, and other vernaculars, and the modern ones in English. Thus, the breadth and depth of our culture, its varied and many sided quality, permits us to claim, without being immodest, a fair understanding of both the East and the West and to become a bridge of understanding between the two. This is a role which we would be happy to perform in the higher interest of the Free World and in the service of world peace.

No one, therefore, should underestimate the tremendous impact upon the Asian peoples of the Philippines success in establishing among its people a real, substantial, and effective democracy as envisaged by Jefferson and Lincoln, and by our own Rizal and Mabini. On the other hand, no one should discount the possibility that the failure of democracy in the Philippines might prove to be a fatal setback to the expanding frontiers of Democracy in Asia.

If you will bear with me for a while, may I be allowed to present to you in bold strokes a picture of the political and economic conditions of my country. The twenty-three million Filipinos are closely and affectionately attached to you in warm friendship, for you have lived with us for more than half a century and have left imperishable influences on our history, politics, economics, and culture. We fought side by side with you when the fortunes of war were at the lowest ebb, and ever after. We never wavered in loyalty, not even under the fire and sword of a ruthless enemy. Our veterans who survived after risking their all have unflinching faith that America will always remember their devotion and they are confident that Congress will ever be mindful of their interests. While Bataan and Corregidor were fought by armies, the Philippine resistance movement was fought by the masses of our people. During our association of nearly half a century, you inspired our people with the immortal principles of your declaration of independence. You gave us both the letter and the spirit of your Constitution. The political thinking and practices of our people bear the deep imprint of American political institutions and usages. Our democratic way of life has been enriched and vitalized by your own. Thus, when under the dynamic leadership of President Magsaysay, we quelled the communist-inspired Huk rebellion and outlawed communism in the Philippines under a law signed by me last year, we acted under the inspiration of our spirit of 1896 not less than under your spirit of 1776.

The English language is the official language of the Philippines and will so remain indefinitely. It is one of the cultural bonds that bind our country to America and to the English-speaking world. American culture has cut a deep swath in our own. Even now, the English-language newspapers in the Philippines continue to be the favorite newspapers of Filipino readers. Side by side with the development of the indigenous culture, we appreciate more and more American art and literature. Your cultural legacy now forms part of the soul of the Philippine nation.

The economic bond between our two countries is equally important. The biggest market for our foreign trade is the United States to which we sell 52 percent of our exports and from which we buy 55 percent of our imports. The Philippines occupies the eleventh rank among the foreign markets for American products. Your total investments in the Philippines amount to \$250 million and is thus the biggest foreign investment in the Philippines. Under the so-called parity amendment to our Constitution, Americans enjoy the same rights as Filipinos to develop the natural resources of the country and to establish public utilities. We have not given this privilege to any other foreigner. No other country in the world has given it to you. For that reason, the biggest power companies and mining companies in the Philippines are American owned. American investors come in slowly, but they keep coming. American capital and Philippine labor have harmonious relations. Both our elite and our labor force come from 21 universities, 352 colleges and 31,000 public and private schools in all of which the democratic ideology is accepted and communism rejected by free choice.

So, I venture to submit my considered view that long after government-to-government treaties are made and unmade, long after agreements are emptied of meaning, long after covenants expire, this people-to-people relation between Filipinos and Americans will endure through the centuries. These, ladies and gentlemen, are some of the priceless, intangible stakes in our wedded national destinies.

I said a while ago that our task of reconstruction and restoration is over. We have accomplished that with generous American aid. But now, we are starting the more difficult task of building a national economy that will afford the humblest citizen of the country a fair share of the comforts and conveniences of modern civilized life, a fair assurance of continuous employment of our manpower, and a fair measure of economic security and stability for all. Our natural resources in land, mines, forests, marine, and hydro-electric power potential are vast and the greatest part of them are yet untapped. Our potential production of rubber, cotton, rice, corn, and other cereals is unlimited. Our actual production of copra, hemp, and sugar is limited only by the demand of the world market. Some of the world's biggest deposits of nickel, iron, copper, and minerals are found in the Philippines. We are hopeful that someday the tremendous efforts of exploration for oil conducted by American companies will yield the expected results. These, in short, are the vast potentialities of my country.

But I must be frank with you and say that our economic situation leaves much to be desired. We are far from our economic goals. To exploit the vast natural resources I have referred to, we lack the capital and in certain cases, the know-how. Our balance of payments in our international trade has been unfavorable in the post-war years. It is true that we have increased our exports from \$263.4 millions in 1947 to \$428.9 millions in 1958. But our imports have increased faster, from \$511.1 millions in 1947 to \$614.6 millions in 1957. It is also true that from 1953 up to the present, pursuant to our industrialization program, we have established with very little foreign borrowing more than eight hundred new industries. But we are encountering difficulties in providing the dollar requirements of these new industries in machinery, spare parts, and raw materials which have to be imported. This has strained our international reserves. We have extensive irrigation projects to bolster our food production. We have also big harbor improvement projects, especially for Manila, to provide adequate port facilities for a growing foreign and domestic trade. We have power development projects to cope with the rapidly expanding industrialization program in Manila area, Visayas, and Mindanao. But principally, we want to realize thereby an ambitious but necessary program of rural electrification by which we hope to stimulate home and cottage industries in the rural areas; bring to the countryside the blessings of newspapers, movies, radio and television, and other modern urban conveniences and facilities; improve the living standards of our rural folks and brighten up their social and economic outlook. But these can no longer be financed with our own resources alone. To finance these development projects, we therefore need foreign capital and credit.

These are some of the urgent and economic problems we have in our country. So much of our working capital has been invested in the building of the projects and industries we have so far undertaken that refinancing has become imperative. We have progressed half-way toward our objective; we cannot turn back. We need strength to take us to the legitimate goal which we believe we can reach with the assistance of our friends.

Lastly, may I express a parting thought as a tribute to this great American nation by borrowing the words of one of its great Presidents, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He said: "The state of this nation is good—the heart of this nation is sound—the spirit of this nation is strong—the faith of this nation is eternal." The Philippines, your loyal friend and ally, appeals to that heart, to that spirit, and to that faith.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**Message of President Garcia at dinner in honor of President Eisenhower at the Philippine Embassy,  
Washington, June 19, 1958 (8 p.m. Washington Time)**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S REMARKS AT DINNER IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT EISENHOWER AT THE  
PHILIPPINE EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, JUNE 19, 1958 (8 P.M. WASHINGTON TIME)**

MR. PRESIDENT,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I WELCOME YOU, Mr. President, to this bit of Philippine "territory" on American soil. No man has a better right to be thus welcomed— with the special respect, admiration and affection which the people and government of the Philippines reserve only for their great heroes and benefactors.

It seems particularly fitting that we should do this today, June 19, which is the birthday anniversary of our national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal.

A few days before leaving Manila, I had the honor of placing a historical marker on the room in the Executive Office of Malacañang where for more than four years between 1935 and 1939 you, Mr. President, worked to help establish the fledgling army of the Commonwealth of the Philippines and to lay out the plans for our common defense.

For lack of material time the plans were never fully carried out before the enemy struck. But I am sure you must have been heartened by the fact that through the dark days of Bataan and Corregidor, the fighting spirit of our Fil-American soldiers held out "according to plan" with an endurance which the enemy had not anticipated. You who were with us and knew our people long before that, would have understood that our people's love of freedom and loyalty to America would sustain them through the night of our temporary defeat.

We in the Philippines like to think that the supreme military skill that masterminded the Battle of Normandy was shaped in part by the years you spent in Malacañang and that your great crusade in Europe had some beginnings that went back to the Philippines.

As the current tenant in Malacañang, I recall with special pleasure the period of your tenure there. Our people who remember your sojourn with us would have wanted me to do this. I am sure I bespeak their sentiments when I express the hope that you and Mrs. Eisenhower will find the occasion some day to return to the Philippines and visit old friends. You will be received with open arms and hearts overflowing with affection and gratitude.

May I ask you, ladies and gentlemen, to join me in a toast to the health of the President of the United States.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library



**Speech of President Garcia before the National Press Club at Washington, D.C. June 19, 1958**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH BEFORE THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB  
AT WASHINGTON, D.C. JUNE 19, 1958**

I AM DEEPLY grateful for your hospitality, and glad that I have this opportunity to exchange some views and opinions with you.

My advisers have warned me that an encounter with the National Press Club is one of the roughest ordeals which an official visitor to Washington is called upon to face, perhaps the one item on his schedule which he would be happy to avoid, if he can.

But for all its vaunted terrors, it is in fact the one engagement which the official visitor can least afford to miss. For here he is privileged to speak to the American nation and to the world, and no consideration of personal convenience can outweigh the advantage that must accrue to the country of which, and for which, he speaks.

Fortunately, I am not a stranger to the ways of American press. We have in the Philippines a press that has faithfully patterned its principles and its practice upon your own. A press that is fully as free and untrammelled as yours, in certain ways even more so, as every Filipino politician has reason to know and sometimes to rue. In Manila there is a National Press Club with an organization and facilities that favorably compare with yours, and it counts with the membership of many newspapermen whose ability, energy, and dedication would entitle them to stand proudly with their peers anywhere in the world.

The American press is known for its courage and its frankness. These are qualities born of its heavy responsibility. For it is obvious that the press of the world's greatest democracy and leader in the defense of freedom would hardly be equal to its task if it lacked the courage to get the facts and the frankness to tell the truth. Courage and frankness do not necessarily ensure infallibility, but the right to make mistakes is an essential part of freedom and is, indeed, the proof of its existence. Better a system which admits of the possibility of error than one which denies it altogether and by so doing, stultifies the search for truth.

It is by this conviction that I am emboldened to appear before you today. The traditions of the American press I hold in deep respect, for I know that the quality of fairness is as much a part of those traditions as are the qualities of fearlessness and candor.

As President of the Republic of the Philippines I would like to believe that I have a right to appeal to a quality of the American press which, in the context of our relations, is even more important than the quality of fairness. I refer to the great capacity which the American press has frequently shown for warm, sympathetic understanding of the needs and problems of other peoples. The Filipino people crave justice at your hands, but they need your understanding even more.

I shall not attempt to minimize the problems, and difficulties that beset the Philippines. But I think it would be useful to try to assess these liabilities against the background of the very real assets to which we proudly lay claim but which unfortunately, are often ignored in the summary judgments made of the conditions obtaining in the country.

Our first great asset is this: The Philippines is a country rich in natural resources. There is no valid excuse whatever why the country should continue to remain undeveloped and the people poor. We have an abundance of products that the world needs as well as the land, the materials, and the labor force to produce more of the things we need ourselves.

We have set in motion a two-pronged program of development in agriculture and industry. Through land reform, the introduction of scientific methods of farming, the encouragement of cooperatives, the expansion of irrigation

facilities, and by bringing new land under cultivation, we hope shortly to become self-sufficient in rice, our principal food staple, and to increase our dollar-earning exports of coconut oil and copra, sugar, hemp or abaca, and minerals.

With the aid of domestic and foreign capital, mostly American, we have embarked on a program of industrialization. We have built a number of hydroelectric power systems, and as capital becomes available, we intend to build more. Our mining industry is making steady progress, and we have set up textile, chemical, cement, and steel plants. Our aim is to produce at home an ever-increasing proportion of the goods required for local consumption. For only as we succeed in doing this can we hope to correct the imbalance in our foreign trade and gear our production more closely to the needs of our fast-growing population rather than let it remain constantly at the mercy of the uncertain foreign market.

Our second great asset lies in the fact that the condition of peace and order is better today than at any time since liberation. We have conserved the gains that were made in this field during the Magsaysay administration, and our people are determined that Communist subversion and rebellion will never again pose a threat to our democratic institutions. This determination shall be fully reflected in policies calculated to eliminate the cause of public discontent and disorder—indirectly by creating conditions of economic security and confidence in the government, and directly by effective counter-measures against organized acts of violence from any quarter.

In the Philippines we have decided to take the honest and forthright decision of outlawing the Communist Party. We are not beguiled by the subtle arguments of the political theorists who say that it is undemocratic to deny freedom even to the enemies of freedom. We know from bitter experience, and not from fine-spun theory, that it is suicidal to give freedom to those who scorn freedom, and that in a country situated like the Philippines, it is better to sacrifice the refinements of political theory to the overriding necessity of national survival under a regime of law and order. Certain other countries in Asia have followed a policy relative to the Communist Party that is the opposite of ours. Let history be the judge as to whether we or they shall have better served the long-range interests of freedom and democracy in our part of the world. For our part, we have decided that the Communist Party is inherently committed in theory and practice to organized subversion and violence as instruments of political action, and for that reason we have decided to place it outside the pale of the law.

But our greatest asset, of course, is our people. We number twenty-three millions, small by comparison with some of our giant neighbors in Asia, but weighing proportionately somewhat more in the final tally of the adherents of freedom and this for a number of very good reasons. First, our archipelago occupies the strategic center of the Free World's defense in the Far East, and sits astride the major trade, transport, and communications lanes running east and west as well as north and south within that vitally important region. We have land and resources which, if fully developed, can sustain a population double or treble what we have at present.

Above all, we have a people that is one of the most literate, alert, and energetic in our part of the world, constituting a nation that is uniquely qualified to be the bearers of the blessings of freedom and democracy to its neighbors even as it has proved itself to be a loyal defender of their principles and institutions both against Japanese aggression and Communist attack.

I do not wish to be invidious, but I think it is fair to ask you 'where, in all Asia or Africa for that matter, you can find a land and a people with a comparable tradition and record. We are the only nation in Asia that has been exposed to the two main streams of western civilization, the Latin and the Anglo-Saxon, taking the best of both while itself remaining basically oriental. From the first we received the tenets of the Christian Faith and the notion of justice under the law. From the latter we acquired the appetite for education, cultural advancement and material progress, and devotion to the principles and institutions of democracy. At the same time, as Asians, we recognized our indestructible affinities with our neighbors and we are determined to work out in peaceful cooperation with them our common salvation through the principles of democracy and the methods of freedom.

These, then, are the assets of my country and people. In their totality they are such as should warm the hearts of our friends and well-wishers in America who must often feel discouraged by one-sided or hostile reports of impending chaos or disaster in the Philippines. But in addition to all of these, I would ask you to bear in mind one crucially significant fact; namely, that in the Filipino people you have a nation in whose mind and heart the love of freedom

and devotion to democracy have taken deep root beyond the power of Communist guile and blandishment to eradicate, that this is a nation whose loyalty to our common ideals has been tested three times in a decade—in the struggle against the Japanese invaders, in the campaign against the Communist rebellion, and in the battlefields of Korea—a nation, in short, that has rejected the illusory comfort of neutralism and has dared instead to stand up and be counted on the side of freedom.

And now, just frankly, I will discuss with you some of our problems and difficulties.

The first of these is of a financial and economic order, and it is a serious one. Our dollar reserves are at their lowest ebb since the country became independent. There is no, immediate prospect of narrowing the gap between our exports and imports. In spite of restrictive monetary measures we have not succeeded in reversing this downward trend. As I have said before, we are endeavoring by every possible means to increase our productive capacity both in agriculture and industry. But the increase has not caught up with the needs of an expanding economy and an expanding population. At the same time, we realize that further import restrictions at this time would have these adverse effects: they would gravely impair the country's economy by interrupting even the modest program of agricultural improvement and industrial expansion on which we are already embarked, and they would create mass discontent because of unemployment and high prices, thus further reducing the standard of living which at present already stands close the level of bare subsistence.

We propose, instead, a two-part solution to this problem. First, what we need immediately is a credit line against which we could draw from time to-time funds for such specific development projects as the considered judgment of American and Filipino experts would deem to be wise and prudent. We do not want any handout or an outright financial grant. We want development loans on a strictly business basis. Secondly, we hope that at any propitious time a careful and definitive review be undertaken of a number of outstanding financial claims which the Philippine Government had pressed in the past. The sums involved in these subsisting claims are rather substantial, and if considered and granted in a spirit of mutual understanding and equal justice, would go a long way in strengthening our financial and economic position.

Among these are our veterans' claims, and it is our confident hope that they can be met in a manner that is not piecemeal, but that a policy can be laid down that will decide once and for all this problem, the satisfactory solution of which is so vital to Philippine-American relations.

Our second major problem is of a political and military order. I refer not to the institutions of our political democracy, whose sturdiness is proved by the recent national elections which, as the American press can attest, were free, clean, and honest. I refer rather to the existing political and military problems between the Philippines and the United States. Of these, the most urgent and important one relates to the American bases in the Philippines. Fortunately, the question of the title to the bases has now been officially recognized by the American Government as belonging indefeasibly to the Philippines. There remain the question of the redispotion of areas to be used as bases to achieve greater coverage on protection and the modernization of existing bases, and the question of jurisdiction. Negotiations to resolve these questions were started nearly two years ago during the Magsaysay Administration, but were recessed before agreement could be reached. I am confident however that our differences will be resolved in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding, having regard to the supreme interest of our common defense. I wish to assure you that the Filipino people will never sanction any step that is likely to jeopardize our mutual security. At the same time, they will never demand from the United States Government a measure of respect for their National sovereignty greater than what the latter has shown in similar treaties signed with the government of other countries, including an ex-enemy country, Japan.

Finally, there is the problem of corruption in the government. That it exists in the Philippines I shall not deny. I do not believe there is any head of state or head of government anywhere in the world, this country not excepted that can stand here before you and affirm truthfully that his country is immune to this social cancer.

But having acknowledged the existence of corruption in the Philippines, I must immediately point out that our untrammelled freedom of the press and freedom of speech in the Philippines often produce, by means of snowballing whispering campaigns, highly imaginary, distorted, or exaggerated pictures of the actual situation.

It is my firm purpose to exert my utmost and punish dishonesty and corruption in public service. In the more sensitive areas of government, such as the offices of internal revenue, customs, and other revenue-collecting agencies, I have ordered full-scale investigations. I wish to assure you that the officials found guilty will be punished to the full measure of the law. But I must again point out that as the head of a constitutional government, a government based on the principles of due process and fair trial and on the doctrine that the accused is deemed to be innocent until his guilt is proved beyond reasonable doubt, I cannot assume the tone of a dictator and say that I will fire everyone so accused or send him to jail at once. Honest public service and clean government are essential elements of democratic government, but far more essential than these is the faithful observance of the Bill of Rights.

Today is the 97th Birthday Anniversary of the national hero of the Philippines, Dr. Jose Rizal. It is fitting that I should invoke his name today, because Rizal was the sworn foe of oppression and tyranny, vice and corruption, in his time, just as Thomas Paine was the implacable enemy of these evils in America more than a century earlier.

As a writer and artist, Rizal shared the universal faith of all free men in the power of the unshackled mind, the force of the liberating word that is spoken or written in freedom.

I have come to the end of my observations. But I should not wish to conclude my remarks without addressing to you, if I may, an earnest appeal to the great power of the American press. The American press is not an arm or instrument of American policy. Its first duty is to get the facts and to tell the truth without fear or favor. It is not obliged to be kind and forgiving to all America's allies simply because they are allies. But the press of America must inevitably share in some degree the great and manifold responsibility that weigh on this country as the leader of the free world. I believe that, without derogating from its primary responsibility to gather, transmit, and publish news and opinion accurately, the American press can use its enormous power to help bring America and her allies towards closer amity and cooperation. I firmly believe that the American press can help to create in the peoples of the other free countries that degree of respect, regard, and affection for America to which she stands fully entitled by the demonstrated courage, generosity, and compassion of her people.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines College of Law Library**

**Speech of President Garcia on being conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws, June 22, 1958**

**SPEECH OF PRESIDENT GARCIA, AT FORDHAM UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK CITY, ON BEING CONFERRED THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LAWS, HONORIS CAUSA, JUNE 22, 1958, AT 3:15 P.M. NEW YORK TIME (JUNE 23, 1958, 4:15 A.M. MANILA TIME)**

MR. PRESIDENT;

MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY, AND STUDENT BODY OF FORDHAM UNIVERSITY:

THIS singular honor I know is more of a tribute of love and admiration for my people than a recognition of personal merit. I accept it, therefore, in behalf of the Philippines with the deepest gratitude. I have been the recipient of quite a number of honors in my life but I regard this as one to be highly treasured because it is conferred by a leading Catholic university such as Fordham, which stands as an impregnable spiritual citadel amidst a troubled and harassed world. World culture and civilizations were necessary to make us realize that God's inheritance of freedom, equality, economic security, and contentment is meant not merely for the powerful or a privileged few but for all humanity, regardless of color or geographic accident. We have learned after bitter experience that universal prosperity, the universal enjoyment of the blessings of life, universal freedom, and equality are *sine qua non* of universal peace.

Shortly before the United States emerged as a leader of the free world after the Second World War, the American people realized that they cannot live in a vacuum of peace and prosperity all their own and continue to be unconcerned with the fate of the rest of the world. Isolationism has become incompatible with world leadership. Today, whether by design or by decree of destiny, this nation is the leader of the free world, and as such, it cannot remain uninvolved in the problems of humanity.

The modern means of communications, supersonic planes, intercontinental missiles, atomic energy, and space satellites have made all nations-next door neighbors. With the conquest of distance and space, nations have expanded their concepts of nationalism. We have become more conscious of interdependence and must admit the interlocking of our destinies. If war should come it would affect all nations regardless of whether they are combatants or neutrals because it will be total in scope and total in destruction. A hydrogen bomb, when it explodes, will make no exception of a neutral. In other words the next war, God forbid it, will be a total social responsibility of the entire human race. Under the principle of the social unity of mankind, it is every nation's bounden duty to contribute its share to the prevention of war. I submit that without in any way minimizing the importance of the efforts of the United Nations in this direction, this end can be achieved only if the conditions that breed social discontent, conflicts, and upheavals are removed and in their place the socio-economic conditions and 'climate of peace and contentment every-where' is established. In other words, war ends only when the causes of war are removed.

May I repeat here a few thoughts on this matter which I made on the occasion of my inauguration as President of the Philippines on December 30, 1957. I said:

"But deeper and more enduring than our preparations for defense is our hope and desire for world peace:—a just, honorable, and lasting peace. The Philippines stands squarely behind every sincere plea and effort for a stop to the armaments race that is leading the nations of the world to material and moral bankruptcy. World peace based on a 'balance of terror' maintained by a relentless contest in the development of increasingly more devastating nuclear weapons is a danger-fraught situation only one spark away from a cataclysmic explosion leading inevitably to one end—the total destruction of civilization. This administration will therefore tirelessly support any sincere effort towards the removal of all means to wage war through total disarmament of all nations and ultimately towards the removal of all causes of war by channeling the tremendous resources now spent for destructive purposes to fighting misery, poverty, disease, and criminality the world over and bring about the climate and moral regeneration for world peace."

This great university, I am sure, cannot but endorse these sentiments and Fordham, as a leading cultural unit of American democracy true to the Catholicity of its ideals and traditions, can play a leading role to establish a world climate for peace. This center of Catholic education which counts with the ideological solidarity of thousands of Catholic Christian schools, colleges, and universities in the Philippines can be an effective leader in establishing the cultural and social climate for peace in the under-developed countries of Asia. The Asians are like Filipinos. Their desire for freedom from want, freedom from fear, and freedom to lift themselves from abasement of the body and the spirit is deeply rooted in their nationalism. The American educational and cultural record in the Philippines from 1898 to 1946 which was based on democratic principle, is mainly: responsible for making the Philippines what it is today—the greatest friend of America in Asia and a freedom-loving people.

Given a similar educational background, Asia can be won over to align itself with the forces that cherish and uphold the dignity of man and the highest spiritual values.

What is that American cultural and educational experience in the Philippines? Briefly, the greatest legacy of the United States in the Philippines is the educational system established there soon after the smoke of battle had cleared away in the Philippine-American War. Of course it must be said as a matter of historical truth that America had a good foundation on which to base that system and that foundation was laid by the church which for more than three centuries brought to us the benevolent influence of the Christian faith. The American soldiers, soon after peace was declared, became the first teachers in our public schools. They were the first purveyors of the blessings of the American democratic way of life, and the heart of the Filipino was gradually won over to the United States and bound to you by indissoluble cultural bonds further strengthened by national gratitude. You thus helped to establish a democracy in the Philippines bed-rocked on an enduring and indestructible foundation because it is rooted in the faith than can spring only from minds that are not benighted on the basis of our own experience. I dare say that if the frontiers of democracy are to expand in Asia, it will have to be through a similar cultural and educational process.

The educational system established which covered even our remotest village, mainly accounts for the democratic ideology which has effectively won the masses of our people and which has made them spurn the blandishments and the wiles of Communism. The social revolution wrought and brought about by the institution of such a system was indeed far-reaching. I am one of its products and so were my predecessors, Presidents Roxas, Quirino, and Magsaysay, and so were Ambassador Romulo and thousands of other Filipino leaders in education, business, and government. Our educational system consists of one state university, 20 private universities, 352 public and private elementary, high schools, and vocational schools, with a total enrollment of 4,595,000 students out of a total population of 22.6 millions.

American educational work in the Philippines can be duplicated in all of Southeast Asia where live 700 millions of newly-emancipated Asians. The Philippines can be the cultural liaison and the focal center of such a new educational endeavor and, if carried out with understanding and goodwill, it can unite the Asians with the imperishable bond that democratic ideals alone can give with the vast means and resources at the command of altruistic and philanthropic institutions; such as, the Eisenhower Fund, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Kellogg Foundation, the great American universities and colleges, and other foundations and institutions. The United States can embark on an expanded educational aid program for Southeast Asia through the Philippines and help train the youth of the region who will be the Asian leaders of tomorrow. The end result of such an undertaking will transcend our time and beggar all estimates in material terms. I have no doubt but that the youth of Southeast Asia, its longing for education satisfied, its mental horizons broadened, its spiritual faith awakened, will respond enthusiastically to the call of freedom and democracy. This can mark the beginning of the end of Communism in our section of the world, for let it not be forgotten that the flowering of democracy in Asia can surge only from the heart of the Asian youth. It is the youth of today that must be won, and education alone can do it.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Speech of President Garcia before the Council of Foreign Relations of the City of New York, June 24, 1958**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK DELIVERED AT 5:15 P.M., TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 1958, NEW YORK TIME (6:15 A.M., TUESDAY, JUNE 24, MANILA TIME)**

I WOULD like to speak to you today on some aspects of foreign relations that are of vital interest to the United States of America and her allies in the free world.

These views are those of the government of a committed nation, a country that has openly elected the side of freedom in the current struggle of ideologies. It should, perhaps, be remarked in passing that these views are by no means widely shared in Asia and Africa. They are, however, tenaciously held by the vast majority of the Filipino people who feel confident that these opinions will be borne out by present and future developments in the international sphere.

This is a time of great anxiety and trouble, and the problems before us are many and grave. The solutions which this country are called upon to make are of deep concern not only to the American people but to the peoples of the free world who look to America for leadership in the struggle for freedom.

Of the many problems before us, there is one that has graver implications for mankind than any other. This is the two-fold problem of the defense of human freedom and the assurance of human survival in the atomic age. We are all aware of the growing tendency to separate these two objectives and to present them to a frightened world as if they were alternatives that mutually exclude each other.

I am sure I do not misjudge the temper of the American people when I say that they would never be a party to this cruel deception. The real choice before us is not between freedom and survival but between survival as free men and survival as slaves. We must believe that the instinct of survival is as strong in our adversary as it is in ourselves, and that before long he will agree to seek earnestly with us the appropriate and effective means by which our common right to life can best be safeguarded.

This belief needs to be backed by infinite patience and indomitable courage. We need patience to study every proposal that is advanced by the other side ostensibly in the interest of peace, and more patience still to advance our own and to revise them, if need be without sacrificing our vital interests. And we need courage to preserve and, if possible, to extend the frontiers of freedom, as well as to counter any attempt to diminish them by force or guile.

The boast of the totalitarians is that they have caught up with the armed might of the free world and that they will shortly surpass it in the domain of industrial power. They may well have the statistics to support the claim. But even if they do, they cannot have studied too well the comparable statistics of the miracles of sacrifice and endurance that free men can accomplish when liberty is at stake. Nor can they have considered carefully a fact which is never reflected in statistics, namely, that economic progress inevitably sharpens man's inherent desire for individual liberty. Thus, the totalitarian state which initially achieves economic progress by despotic measures is doomed to discover that it bears within itself the seeds of its own destruction.

It is in this conviction that we should meet the challenge of communism. It is a conviction based on the certain knowledge that it is the inborn instinct of man to opt for freedom and to reject slavery whenever and wherever he can exercise the liberty of choice.

It follows that it is the chief concern of the free world to maintain this right to choose. In the certainty that this right would be exercised in favor of freedom, we can, and we should, accept the challenge of communism to an open and peaceful competition for the minds of men. This is the kind of struggle that communists can never win with all their vaunted army divisions and sputniks in the sky.

The feeling of universal revulsion aroused by the ruthless crushing by Moscow of the Hungarian revolution, and lately by the execution of Premier Imre Nagy and other leaders of the 1956 uprising, is proof of this statement. I address these thoughts to you on behalf of a nation that has opted for freedom. The Philippines was the original laboratory where the American policy towards another people desirous and determined to be free was first developed. I believe that Americans and Filipinos have a right to take pride in the outcome of their joint experiment. We have shown to the world that two peoples, dissimilar in race, history, and traditions, can nevertheless share a common faith in democratic ideals based on equality and mutual respect. We have demonstrated the fallacy of the ancient doctrine that there are inherently inferior or superior races or that there are nations destined to rule over others. Together we have helped to make the twentieth century a century of colonial iteration.

The lessons evoked by our example have changed the world. The first great lesson, of course, is that it is possible for a dependent people to win its freedom by peaceful means. The second is that it is possible for such a people to do so without a bitter aftermath of hate.

Other lessons are still in the process of manifesting themselves. One is that it is possible for a former dependent country to overcome the colonial mentality produced by a long period of subservience, developing the contrary vices of hyper-sensitiveness without suspicion. This lesson is for us to give to the colonial or former colonial peoples. Another is that it is possible for the former ruling state to deal with the former dependency on a basis of equal sovereignty, having due respect for its peculiar traditions and institutions, and a sympathetic understanding of its problems and difficulties. This lesson is for America to give to the colonial powers.

Others who have come before me have argued persuasively the case for neutralism and non-commitment. But if I may, I would like to present very briefly the case for commitment, the side of those who stand engaged to the cause of freedom in the world. In doing so, I speak on behalf of a people who have irrevocably elected the side of freedom and have supported their conviction with deeds. I do not feel that I have to apologize for them to anybody anywhere.

The Filipino people have exercised their liberty of choice. They have chosen the side of freedom. They believe that this right should be accorded to all peoples. They believe further that if accorded this right, they too would elect the side of freedom. Above all, they believe that humanity's chance of survival in the atomic age would be diminished to the extent that survival of itself becomes the sole objective of our policy. This is so because it takes a great deal more courage these days to assert one's right to freedom than to affirm one's desire to live. The hand of the adversary may be stayed by a resolute determination on our part to defend freedom, but if he knows that we quail before him in fear of our lives, he might be tempted to undertake rash adventures that could lead to universal catastrophe.

The diplomatic and military posture of the free world is a defensive one, and the other side knows it. He knows that the initiative in either field lies in his hands and that our strategy is essentially based on our capacity for riposte and retaliation. In this power equation, it would appear that a policy of neutralism has the net effect of abetting the aggressive purposes of international communism, whether it seeks to achieve these by armed attack or by subversion. The proof of this is to be seen in Asia and Africa where neutralism is a much-favored philosophy, and where, consequently, communism has been encouraged to make heavy inroads by stealth or by armed intervention. On the other hand, in Western Europe, where neutralism has been rejected, communism has found it less easy to pursue its objectives.

This, in brief, is the case for the committed nations that dare to stand up and be counted. It is, I think, an honest and forthright position which should entitle them to at least as much solicitude and consideration as those who prefer, with the best of intentions, to stand aside in the conflict.

I hope I may be permitted at this juncture to express to the American people the grateful appreciation of the Filipino people and their government for the military, economic, and financial assistance which we have received from them since the end of the last war. I trust that the people of this country will feel recompensed by the thought that this assistance has been used effectively to combat communist dissidence and rebellion in the country, to rebuild our agriculture and industry which lay in ruins after liberation, and to help maintain educational, cultural, and health standards commensurate with the needs of our expanding population.



Americans will be equally gratified to know that we have given priority to the building of hydro-electric power plants in our drive for a modest scale of industrialization, and that for their part, private Filipino and American investors have established more than 800 industries in the last five years under this program.

But the pressure of our expanding, needs upon our available resources continues to be great. We believe that the answer to our problem is not a hand-out of a grant-in-aid but a development loan on a strictly business basis, a credit line that would permit the execution of specific projects previously studied and approved by American and Filipino experts.

From this you can see that the committed nations have their problems too. For them it is not a question of an inducement or an invitation to join the ranks of freedom, but the tougher and more prosaic problem of having the strength and the means to remain free.

The Philippines is a small country whose only desire is to work out its own destiny in freedom and security. We covet nothing and have no designs on anyone. We deeply want peace, but freedom even more, and we would count the loss of freedom as a price too high to pay for peace.

In this faith, I give this pledge on behalf of the Filipino people: That we shall stand with the American people in the defense of freedom, as we have stood with them in the past loyally, without counting the cost.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia at the Arizona State College, June 25, 1958**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH AT THE ARIZONA STATE COLLEGE AT 5:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, PHOENIX TIME (7:00 P.M., THURSDAY, JUNE 26, MANILA TIME)**

I AM grateful to you, Sir, for the undeserved citation. Since we arrived in this country a week ago, we have been the recipient of honors and courtesies that we deeply appreciate. But this honorary degree has a special meaning. It is the first one conferred on me by a University of the West, and the Western United States and the Philippines are lapped by the same ocean that today is the vortex of world developments that can affect the future of mankind.

When I was a delegate to the United Nations conference in San Francisco in 1945, the site for the United Nations headquarters was under discussion. The Philippine delegation exerted its utmost to have it located in San Francisco. We had nothing against New York. In fact, we admire the greatness and the grandeur of that city of wonders. But we firmly believed then, as we still believe now, that out here in the West, the United Nations would have found an ideal window through which to watch the unfolding of a new era in the evolution of humanity to freedom. And the cause of peace to which the United Nations is committed, is better served if the world's peace control tower is located where it is nearest the most sensitive danger spots in Asia.

Five years after San Francisco, the cold war exploded in Korea. Soon after followed Indo-China. The Chinese mainland has been the scene of developments that have altered the face of Asia. Even as I speak to you this afternoon, Indonesia finds itself in the midst of a struggle that has far-reaching significance to all of us in that section of the globe.

In the present ideological warfare between East and West, Asia holds the balance of power that is decisive. The countries of Asia are fertile ground for the spread of Communism not only because in Asia live more than one half of the peoples of the world, not only because in Asia are found an abundance of the world's essential war materials, but also because of the strategic importance of the countries situated in Asia, and because of the history of colonialism.

It is for these reasons that the forces on totalitarianism have been concentrating on Asia, using all the devices of guile and blandishment, of intimidation and infiltration, of subversion and aggression to win adherents or to enslave these peoples that fall under their power. The unfolding strategy of Communism after the second world war was clear and unmistakable—it was to conquer Asia and gain control of the Mediterranean. To achieve this, a three-pronged attack was undertaken almost simultaneously. First: make Greece a puppet state and gain an outlet into the Mediterranean and thus cut the Western world's lifeline. Second: conquer China and then Korea. Third: and lastly, destroy the cornerstone of Free South East Asia in the Philippines by using the usual Communist subversive pattern of fomenting civil war and strife. With American assistance, the attempt to make Greece a puppet state failed. China was conquered but aggression was stalled in Korea. The huk rebellion in the Philippines failed, thanks to the dynamic leadership of my predecessor, Ramon Magsaysay.

I cite these developments of recent occurrence and which are fresh in our minds only to drive home the important fact that in the context of the present global struggle, Asia has assumed such an importance in American life that it is essential for Americans to turn their eyes toward my fellow Asians, to study our problems, and to know and understand us better. The main purpose of my state visit to the United States is to foster closer friendship between your people and mine, and to seek such assistance as would help to strengthen our economic sinews, thus insuring the welfare of our masses and the stability of our democratic institutions. However, it will, I hope, also serve the purpose of focusing the attention of the American people toward Asia.

Modern technology has developed new values that we are compelled to face, to meet frontally, and to which we must adapt our mental attitudes. The Pacific Ocean, for example, no longer affords to you the protection that it gave

you you even ten years ago. Distances have been annihilated, and in terms of modern warfare, Asia today is your next door neighbor like Tucson is to Phoenix. It is your national security that is involved, and when I say your national security, I also mean the national security of my country because ours is intertwined with yours.

It is in the spirit of mutuality of interests and of ideals, of mutuality of our defense and security, of our mutual determination to uphold freedom and the democratic way of life, Sir, that I accept this honorary degree that Arizona State College at Tempe has conferred on me this afternoon.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Message of President Garcia before the World Affairs Council of Northern California at the Peacock Court, Mark Hopkins Hotel at San Francisco, June 27, San Francisco Time (June 28, Manila Time)**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S ADDRESS BEFORE THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AT THE PEACOCK COURT, MARK HOPKINS HOTEL AT SAN FRANCISCO, AT 7:30 P.M., FRIDAY, JUNE 27, SAN FRANCISCO TIME (11:30 A.M., SATURDAY, JUNE 28, MANILA TIME)**

STANDING as we are at the gateway to the Pacific World, and because world affairs are closely linked with economics, never more so than today, I find particularly appropriate on this occasion to speak about the trade relations between America and my country, the Philippines.

These trade relations are of some antiquity. Even before 1800, American ships were calling at Philippine ports, and all through the past century America has been one of the leading customers for Philippine products. Contact between your people and mine, however, was limited to our commercial relations which by and large involved merely the impersonal movement of goods. However, when the tides of history threw us together in 1898, all this changed. Not only was there a movement of goods between our countries, there was also, and most importantly, a movement of ideas, of people, of capital and enterprise.

Thousands of Americans went to the Philippines, while thousands of my countrymen came to the United States to live and to learn, and thus our people came to know more about each other. Our commercial relations also experienced an unparalleled development. We became linked to the American people at a time when America was on the eve of becoming the world's leading power, both economically and politically. We continue our uniquely close relationship through the days of the first world war, the booming 20's, the depressed 30's, the tragic early days of World War II, and finally, through liberation, victory, and independence.

This relationship with America, with its great commercial development, generated the wealth which enable us to build roads, harbors, hospitals, schools, modern facilities, and a modern framework of democratic government. Public health improved, illiteracy was reduced, our population grew three-fold, and our cities flourished and expanded. But these developments were not an immixed blessing. The increased commercial activity that we witnessed was almost entirely a response to preferential free trade between our two countries, and was not matched by a corresponding industrial development against the day when we would have to stand on our own. Our economy became a mere appendage of yours, and the economic structure of our country patterned itself as complementary to yours. Industries grew up which were oriented towards supplying the needs of the American market behind a wall of tariff preferences which could not have existed without such preferential treatment.

So long as your market was stable or expanding, and so long as the tariff preferences lasted, our industries had a bright prospect. But a depression in your country or the termination of tariff preferences could be expected to cause distress in mine. As it happened, these two things occurred one after another during the last pre-war decade, Depression in your country brought on increased agitation for protection against outside products. Quotas were imposed on our exports to your country, and when we gained commonwealth status preliminary to attaining full independence, tariff preferences began to be withdrawn. Most of the quota ceilings were set at the highest peaks attained by our products in your trade, except in the case of sugar. The quota assigned for this product represented a drastic slash in the amounts we had been accustomed to sell to you since the first world war, and therefore, constituted a painful reversal for our sugar industry.

Fortunately, transitional arrangements were made between our governments which would ease the impact of the quotas and of diminishing tariff preferences on the Philippine economy. While, this transition period was originally conceived to last between the establishment of the Commonwealth in 1935 and of the Republic in 1946, the intervention of the second world war brought about a rescheduling of this transition period to 1946-47 under the P.I.-U.S. trade agreement of 1946, more popularly known as the Bell Act, and its modified version, the Laurel-Langley agreement of 1954-55.

As a background to what I have been telling you, it is well to call to your attention some facts about our industry. According to a geographer, there were three types of Philippine manufacturing establishments in the pre-war and

immediate post-war years. They were (1) home industries, (2) processing plants for agricultural, mineral, or forest products, such as sugar mills, saw mills, desiccated coconut plants, coconut oil mills, cigar factories, and a pineapple cannery, and (3) some sizeable Philippine industries that catered to domestic needs, such as cement and textile plants, breweries, a paper mill, cigarette factories, and a glass factory.

Our pre-war trade arrangements stimulated the second type of establishment; namely, the processing of agricultural, mineral, or forest products primarily for export. With the prospective diminution of our trade preferences in the United States market and the necessity for reallocating our resources to more economic lines of production, our government undertook a program of diversification and industrialization. In other words, a program of economic development which would expand the third type of industry which I have previously mentioned—manufacturing firms and processing plants geared to provide the domestic market with its needs.

We are now engaged in this massive undertaking. It is a program that we have to get on with to meet the demands of a growing population with aspirations for higher standards of living. But while we are engaged in this undertaking, especially in the initial stages where every financial resource that we can muster is vital, both in foreign and domestic exchange, it is not difficult to realize how important it would be to meet with a sympathetic attitude abroad and have no obstacles placed in the way of our trade.

There have been instances in the past, however, when expressions of sympathy and encouragement for underdeveloped countries from friends abroad did not bear tangible fruit in the form of increased loans, economic aid, and non-discriminatory legislation. When, about two years back, your Congress had under consideration an 80 per cent increase in your domestic sugar requirements, my country was the only one among all your suppliers that received absolutely no increase in its sugar quota. Let me point out that this would not have represented an increase to a new level, but simply a partial restoration to levels prevailing before your quotas were set.

The foreign exchange earnings which were thus diverted to other countries and denied us have been a significant element in our present need for foreign credits. If we had been granted an increase in our sugar quota proportional to the increase in your domestic consumption requirements, this would have meant an additional \$80 million annually for our economy which would have come from trade, not aid. Since we import more than half of our requirements from you, this is an amount that would have found its way back into your economy, and would moreover not have necessitated any outlay of taxpayer's money.

More recently, legislation has been proposed in your Congress which would set up quotas for plywood imports into the United States. Plywood manufacture is a small but growing industry in my country and has received the encouragements of American officials abroad who have held our high hopes for its marketability in your country. The proposed legislation in your Congress, however, would set quotas by countries on the basis of the early 1950's when our plywood exports were negligible, and thus would strangle at birth one of our more promising sources of foreign exchange earnings.

The examples I have cited above should demonstrate to you some of the sources of the difficulties we meet in our desire to develop our economy and raise standards of living of our people. Ultimately, it is the welfare of our citizens that will be a crucial element in our economic decision. If we earn more foreign exchange, if no obstacles are placed in the way of our exports, if the policy of trade, not aid, is followed, we shall have gone part of the way towards solving our problems because we do need foreign exchange to finance the industrial development of my country.

Unfortunately, even with increased foreign trade earnings, we cannot depend solely on internal financing for economic expansion. We have to draw on outside credits to help us progress and grow. We have to go to our banker friends in order to secure credit accommodations, in the same way as any business goes to its bank to make a loan. It is with this purpose that I have come to your country, for I have always felt confident that here we have people of goodwill and who can be very understanding and responsive to our problems when presented with the facts.

We are taking steps to diversify our export trade over of this century. What was more natural than for us to do in our hour of need than approach those who have proved themselves our friends indeed? In the rephrasing of our

economic offensive the stepping-up of our foreign trade is a most important task. Increased exports for us would mean increased foreign exchange earnings, and a wider latitude within which to pursue our goal of economic development.

We are taking steps to diversify our export trade over a broader range of commodities. This is an imperative necessity to remove or at least reduce the element of instability that had plagued us in the past owing to over-concentration in a few major products subject to price fluctuations. Such diversification would broaden the base of export demand for our products which would directly influence my country's exchange earnings and the potential level of imports necessary to our economic well-being.

Our progress in economic development is crucial, not only to my people who would directly benefit from it, but to your country as well. Our strengthening would mean the strengthening of the economic power of the free world, particularly in restless and troubled Asia.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Message of President Garcia at the Domestic Airport on his arrival from his 18-day state visit to the United States, at 10 a.m., Thursday, July 3**  
**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S REMARKS AT THE DOMESTIC AIRPORT**  
**ON HIS ARRIVAL FROM HIS 18-DAY STATE VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, AT 10 A.M.,**  
**THURSDAY, JULY 3**

MY FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

MY HEART is full and words cannot adequately express my appreciation and that of Mrs. Garcia for this warm welcome. I return to you today from a strenuous two weeks in the United States where I scarcely had a minute to myself. I am happy to report to you that I carried out my hour-to-hour schedule without a hitch and that the American people showered us with kindnesses and tendered us hospitality that have moved me deeply. I do not have to tell you that the cordiality of their welcome was not so much for me as a person as it was for our people for whom they have real affection.

I understand I am in tomorrow's program for an address in which I expect to make my Fourth of July speech and report on the result of my mission. Suffice it for me to say now that our people have every reason to rejoice that we have true friends in the United States and that there is respect and gratitude in the American heart for our contributions to the cause of freedom and democracy. President Eisenhower made patent to me his sincere friendship for me and a sympathetic understanding of our problems. The leaders of the United States Congress of both parties are true and tested friends of our people. The Congress itself heard my appeal with sincere sympathy and hearty regard. The manifestations of love and affection on the part of the American people towards us are more than I can describe in words.

The words "Home Sweet Home" are never more meaningful than when one goes abroad and upon returning he is greeted as we are greeted today with this demonstration of your regard and affection. With gratitude in my heart to America and with a greater determination to dedicate myself to the service of our people, I return to our beloved Philippines happy to report to you: mission accomplished. To you all, our heartfelt thanks—Mrs. Garcia and mine—for this very warm and enthusiastic reception.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Speech of President Garcia on the observance of the 12th Anniversary of the Independence Day, July 4, 1958**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
On the observance of the 12th Anniversary of the Independence Day**

[Delivered at the Independence Grandstand, New Luneta on July 4, 1958]

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

AS WE CELEBRATE today the 12th anniversary of our independence, we gratefully raise our hearts to Divine Providence in fervent prayer of thanksgiving for the guidance and protection He has given our independent republic. As our republic survived through the eventful years crowded with trials and adversities, we gain more strength and faith and look forward, to the future with hope and confidence that the Almighty will continue to shower upon us the abundance of His blessings.

We have reason to look back with satisfaction that we emerged successfully in the gigantic task of national reconstruction and rehabilitation. With the collective determination of our people, the Philippines has risen from the ashes and ruins of the last world war. During the last eleven years we have completely restored peace and order in the countryside and have quelled a rebellion that once threatened the life of our republic. We have won back the faith of the masses in our democratic institutions and our democratic way of life. And now, we are engaged in an equally great endeavor of building up a strong national economy capable of affording down to the humblest citizen of our country a fair measure of economic security and stability and full employment of the entire man-power of the nation.

Thus our theme on this independence day is "Economic Stability Through Increased Productivity." To attain this objective we need every hand of labor, every peso of capital, and the industry and initiative of every Filipino. The movement is national in which every and all citizens have a role to play. Our vast natural resources must be developed and utilized for the prosperity of the nation. Our best contribution to the security of the free world is the economic stability of the Filipino people rooted in freedom, social justice, and democracy. These are the reasons for my trip to the United States of America from which I have returned safely to our beloved Philippines only yesterday amidst the rejoicing of our people.

It is therefore timely and proper that on this 12th independence day anniversary I avail myself of the opportunity to render a report of my mission to the United States. July 4 is the common anniversary of the American Republic and ours. More than that, the launching of the Philippine Republic was a joint Philippine-American undertaking.

As you well know, Mrs. Garcia and I went to America on a state visit upon the kind invitation of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. We gladly accepted the invitation not only because of the honor it meant to our nation and people, but also because of the opportunity it afforded us to further strengthen the bonds of Philippine-American friendship, discuss mutual problems, and present our economic problems and aspiration. It is a pleasure to be able to report to you that the American Government and the American people have been warm and cordial in their generosity and hospitality; that the American Government, through President Eisenhower and Congress, are deeply interested in our problems; and that we can count on American material and moral assistance. The Philippine-American solidarity on the basis of sovereign equality, mutuality of interest, and community of ideals has been reaffirmed.

It is perhaps natural that the attention of both the public press and the public itself has been more easily drawn to the financial aspects of my mission than to the spiritual. Dollars are of course more tangible and more concrete than friendship, cordiality, and faith. I personally feel, however, that while the American financial commitments are indeed important, the strengthening of the bonds of Philippine-American understanding and amity will in the long run be of greater significance to the welfare of our government and people. May I humbly add that by using the



problem of Asian peace and freedom as a backdrop for the presentation of our own problems, I also helped to draw American attention to the inherent mutuality of American and Asian problems.

Upon the conclusion of my talks with the highest American officials during my three days' stay in Washington, President Eisenhower and I issued a communique. I feel that my report to you will be incomplete unless I include this important document, it being the authorized official report on the results of those conferences. The communique reads as follows:

## I

"The President of the United States and the President of the Republic of the Philippines today concluded the valuable discussions they have held over the past few days on matters of interest to both countries. These talks centered chiefly on United States-Philippines relations, but they also included an exchange of views on matters of international significance to both countries with special emphasis on Asia.

"During his three-day visit President Garcia addressed a joint meeting of both Houses of Congress, and he and members of his party conferred with the Vice President, the Secretary of State, individual members of Congress, and other United States government officials. After leaving Washington President Garcia will visit other parts of the United States and will meet governmental, cultural, and business leaders.

"The two Presidents reviewed the long history of friendship and cooperation between their countries and they expressed confidence that their respective peoples will continue to benefit from this close association in the future. Moreover, they recognized that similar cooperation among the nations of the free world had been effective in recent years in preventing overt aggression in the Far East and elsewhere in the world. The two Presidents pledged themselves to maintain the unity of strength and purpose between their countries and the other countries of the Western Pacific in order to meet any threats to peace and security that may arise.

"The two Presidents reaffirmed their adherence to the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter. They recognized that through dedication to that Charter the nations of the world can progress toward the attainment of the universal ideal of peace with justice based on the dignity of the individual. With this objective they will continue to support and encourage the activities of the United Nations Organization.

"They noted that great progress has been achieved under SEATO in the strengthening of the Free World's defenses against Communist imperialism in Southeast Asia. They concurred that in the light of the continued threat of Communist military power in Asia, SEATO's defensive capability must be carefully maintained. Toward this end the United States will continue to assist in the development of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, in accordance with mutual security programs jointly approved with the Republic of the Philippines.

"They reviewed, in this connection, the important role played by the Mutual Defense Pact between the Philippines and the United States. They agreed that the aggressive intentions and activities of Communism in the Far East and in Southeast Asia render the maintenance and strengthening of these defensive arrangements an absolute necessity. President Eisenhower made clear that, in accordance with these existing alliances and the deployments and dispositions thereunder, any armed attack against the Philippines would involve an attack against United States forces stationed there and against the United States and would instantly be repelled.

"In the spirit of these alliances, and with particular reference to the problems affecting the military bases operated by the United States in the Philippines, they expressed mutual confidence that these questions would be resolved to the satisfaction of the two countries, having regard to the principle of sovereign equality and the vital requirements of an effective common defense.

## "II

“The two Presidents reviewed progress toward economic development made in the Philippines over the past several years and examined the current economic problems with which that nation is faced. Economic discussions were also held between Philippine officials and representatives of the State and Treasury Departments, the Export-Import Bank and the International Cooperation Administration. The Philippine officials outlined a long-term program for economic development. In view of the inability of the United States to anticipate accurately financial availabilities and relative requirements beyond the next twelve months, immediate emphasis was placed on meeting the initial requirements of the Philippine program.

“For these initial requirements the Export-Import Bank informed the Philippine Government that it will establish a new line of credit of \$75 million for financing private and public development projects in the Philippines.

“The Philippine Government was also informed that, subject to congressional action on the additional appropriations being requested, the Development Loan fund would examine specific projects submitted to it to determine whether they would merit development loan fund financing in an amount not to exceed \$50 million.

### “III

“In the course of their talks, the two Presidents were deeply aware of the special significance of their meeting as the heads of state of two countries, one of which through the revolutionary process and by mutual agreement obtained its independence from the other. They realized that, in the context of present events, their meeting would provide a valuable object lesson on the relations of mutual respect and equal justice most appropriate to two countries, great or small, which share a common faith in freedom and democracy.

### “IV

“President Eisenhower and President Garcia concluded that the understandings reached, as well as the personal relationships established during this visit, will contribute significantly to the mutual good will and friendship which traditionally support Philippines-United States relations.”

(Sgd.) C. P. GARCIA

(Sgd.) DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

As you see in this communique which, by the way, was signed by President Eisenhower and me at the Philippine Embassy in Washington, an initial development loan fund of \$125 million was granted us for the first year or so of our three-year economic development program. But in addition to this amount which I personally consider sufficient to meet our initial requirements, we were promised favorable consideration of the loan application for \$71 million for the establishment of our steel industry which was strongly recommended by a committee of American engineering consultants who came here to study on the spot this essential project of ours.

We can also expect that a bill will be presented in Congress to appropriate the sum of \$24 million to meet our claim for the gold devaluation profits. This we have worked for a long time since prewar years. It is my good fortune that I have been invited to attend the signing by President Eisenhower of two acts for Filipino veterans hospitalization and for benefits of orphans of Filipino veterans in the aggregate sum of \$21 million. I want it also recorded that the generosity of the American people to the Philippines is not limited to official Washington only. It also extends to a marked degree to private financing and industrial agencies which promised us to work out deferred payment arrangements to provide raw materials and machineries for our new industries thus helping us with our dollar reserve problems. This aggregate estimated sum may run up to \$50 million. Interest in the investment of American capital to help us develop our natural resources has been stimulated all over the United States. This report will be incomplete without mention of our American friends who; through their own initiative and goodness of heart, donated farm implements, medical supplies, and equipment for distribution among our people in the rural areas. Definitely this is a token of American confidence in our future.

All this economic assistance is but one manifestation of the tremendous good will and confidence that characterize the Philippine-American relation and further engendered, I feel, by my state visit. A new emphasis has been given to the need for common defense against aggression through the strengthening of the SEATO and a reaffirmed adherence to the principles and purposes of the United Nations. With respect to the Mutual Defense Alliance between the Philippines and the United States, I believe it most significant that in our official communique President Eisenhower declared that "any armed attack against the Philippines would involve an attack against United States forces stationed there and against the United States, and would instantly be repelled." Here at last, from the highest American authority, the President of the nation and Commander-in-Chief of its armed forces, is a clear assurance of instantaneous American retaliation in the event of enemy attack on our country. I have nothing but praise and gratitude to the American Department of State, from Secretary Dulles to Ambassador Bohlen, who have tirelessly collaborated to make my visit pleasant and fruitful. In the American Senate presided by Vice-President Nixon and in the House of Representatives led by Speaker Sam Rayburn, the Philippines counts with staunch friends and supporters.

I believe I can say that I have succeeded in establishing useful official and personal relations with American key officials and statesmen. But I think the sympathy and understanding that I have established with the American people wherever I have met them—in Washington and New York, Chicago and Los Angeles, Phoenix and San Francisco, are equally important and desirable. I have met and greeted thousands of Filipinos in the U.S.A., Hawaii, Wake, and Guam who are all proud of the accomplishments of the Philippine Republic.

In the sounds and sights of America and in the firm handshakes and sincere smiles of the American people, I have seen confirmed the belief that guided me during my visit; namely, that America has a soft spot in her heart for the Philippines. America, being a democracy like the Philippines, is controlled by public opinion. In the consideration of our interests in Washington, henceforth, we shall be able to count on friends not only in the government but also in the rank and file of the American people.

On this the twelfth anniversary of our republic, I believe that we have been vouchsafed by Divine Providence an intenser friendship, a firmer security, and more effective means for the realization of our national objectives of prosperity. A true and enduring friendship is a two-way street. We have, therefore, to reciprocate to the fullest measure of our capacity. We must remain faithful to the ideals of freedom and democracy which we share with the American people and all other peoples of good will.

With the enhanced means at our disposal, we must enter the thirteenth year of our sovereignty with the resolve to work more and produce more. Loans and other forms of friendly assistance are only a palliative; they are only justified if they create that new excitement, that new impetus to increased productivity. We have abundant natural resources. We have a great work force. We have an increasing number of competent technical men, managers, and executives. And now we have additional capital and additional credit to enable us to finance our economic and social development. We can bring this confluence of advantages to the peak of national achievement only if we produce more of our food, more of our clothing, more of our shelter, and more of the good things of life.

On this national day of rededication and consecration to the ideals of our Republic, on this moment of solemn pledge to keep faith with the founders of our nation, foremost in our minds and hearts, with the good will and thanksgiving for the blessings that have been vouchsafed upon us, should be a high and firm resolve to increase the national wealth through harder work and greater productivity.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines College of Law Library**

**Message of President Garcia at the opening of the Conference of the Commission for Asia and the Far East of the International Chamber of Commerce, July 23, 1958, Manila Hotel**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S ADDRESS AT THE OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, JULY 23, 1958, MANILA HOTEL**

ON BEHALF of the people and government of the Philippines, I welcome you to our midst. In holding your conference in Manila, you have lent our capital city added prestige and significance. I hope that you, the distinguished business leaders from Asia and other countries, will find here the atmosphere that could help make your seventh session another successful affair in the short but eventful history of the Commission for Asia and the Far East of the International Chamber of Commerce.

I am happy to be here with you to express some thoughts on "Asian Progress through Greater Trade."

I am sure that all of you know that Asia has but a modest contribution to the total world trade. In 1938 this region accounted for 12.2 per cent of world imports and 15 per cent of world exports. After the war, there was very little change in this set-up, except that Asia registered sizable deficits in place of the prewar surpluses on merchandise.

This situation partly reveals the general instability in the world economy. Stable international equilibrium has not yet been attained; multilateral trade and convertibility of currencies have remained as ideals rather than achievements in the postwar period. It also suggests the dependence of Asian countries in general on selling a few agricultural and industrial raw materials to the highly industrialized countries of the West. This lopsided pattern of their economies creates a complexity of problems and the ability to overcome them will determine to a large extent the level of living of these countries.

One of these problems is the barometric fluctuation in price and quantity of the great majority of Asian export products which results in corresponding variation of export yields. This characteristic of primary products in the world market has long been recognized. It is aggravated by the findings that lower prices of these products do not expand sales through the increase in quantity demanded. As such, export income can not be depended upon to meet the growing requirements of economic development. Neither can it be relied upon in many cases to finance the importation of food and other consumer goods needed daily by the masses. The severity of these movements is augmented in real terms by the lesser variability of the prices of imported industrial products. Second, primary producers tend to earn gold or foreign exchange in good times and to lose them in depressions, and this monetary factor increases both the upswing and the downswing of income and employment. Finally, being highly dependent on export income, the primary producers find it much more difficult to achieve stability by domestic means than does the more developed industrial economies. A sound national economy cannot be built up on such unbalanced foundations.

The small share of Asia in world trade may be attributed also to the restrictive and protective policies pursued by many of the highly developed countries, despite their strong competitive position. This factor is beyond the control of Asian countries. However, so far as concerns the world markets for the great staples and raw material produce of Asian countries, a large measure of responsibility rests on the leading commercial nations. This responsibility consists in ensuring that the world trading system expand and thus afford the developing areas to earn their way by increasing exports while building up at the same time strong domestic markets.

In a world which is being circumnavigated once every ninety-five minutes, it is in the interest of the highly developed countries of the free world to help the developing Asian nations attain their objectives of economic development as fast as possible, for it is by this means that a rising level of world trade with equilibrating effects can be quickly achieved. To deny Asian countries the chance to earn more, to restrict access of their products in the markets of the free world, is to retard Asian progress and slow down world trade. It is but fair that the peoples of this region be given a fair chance to achieve a better life. Asia hopes that these countries will reconsider their policies in the interest of world trade expansion.

A notable weakness in the economies of Asian countries is their vulnerability to inflationary dangers, not only from within, but also from external sources, over which they have very little control. Since Asian countries are dependent on foreign supplies for many of their primary needs, they cannot effectively insulate themselves from economic disturbances in other countries. For example, when prices of industrial machinery and raw materials rise in America, from which the Philippines gets more than 50 per cent of its total imports, Philippine domestic industries experience increased production costs which are ultimately shifted to consumers through the price mechanism.

This heavy dependence on foreign commerce encumbers Philippine development with an economic stability which nullifies the vigor of an independent country. The population of the Philippines increases at the rate of three per cent annually, which is too rapid and perturbing a growth even for the Philippines. Therefore, it becomes imperative that economic growth be accelerated at a faster rate, not only for sustaining the fast growing population but also to provide the means for raising the standard of living which the people aspire and strive for. Hence, the need for changing the pattern of our economy from a lopsided to a diversified one.

I tried to picture to you some of the important problems which we Asian have to contend with. On how we attack these problems will depend greatly the future course of Asian trade. I am sure that you will agree with me that these are not all of the problems of the region. These are only, the problems arising from the quest for an ever-widening market for our products. In a dynamic sense, the other main obstacles to economic development appear to be an environment that is inhospitable to change; that lacks entrepreneurs; that does not generate innovations from within or borrow them from without; and that makes use of far too little specialization for high productivity. It is difficult indeed to solve these formidable problems. But difficulties can be a spur and a challenge instead of a deterrent, and the Asian peoples have shown that they can work both boldly and realistically.

I am glad therefore that this conference has set itself to discuss and deliberate on solutions to the economic problem of the area. I pray that you will be able to find the wisdom to enable you to arrive at the solutions to the problems that plague this part of the world. These problems should be solved; they must be solved.

As business leaders, you stand for the welfare of the people and you embody their yearnings and striving for an increasingly improved standard of living in which every man is strengthened in his capacity for self-realization. Let us then mobilize our human and physical resources with all possible speed towards the end that more people shall enjoy the good things of life without sacrifice of the basic human values. Let us enlarge our ability to give substance to freedom and significance to our belief in equality of opportunity. Let us not lose the essence of our freedom in the throes of want.

Having faith in our capacity to improve our lot, let us then work and cooperate for progress in Asia to enable ourselves to meet and fulfill the aspirations of our peoples and the rest of humanity for prosperity, freedom, and peace. We shall not fail in this undertaking so long as we rely upon the true values of our Asian heritage enriched by the universal verities of Western civilization.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**Speech of President Garcia upon being awarded the Grand Cross of the Chemical Society of Philippines, July 24, 1958**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH UPON BEING AWARDED THE GRAND CROSS OF THE CHEMICAL SOCIETY OF PHILIPPINES, THURSDAY EVENING, JULY 24, 1958 AT THE MALACANANG SOCIAL HALL**

IT IS a pleasure to be with this scientific group composed of the officers and members of the Chemical Society of the Philippines and other technical men. I am not a scientist or a chemist by profession like you, but I am aware of the myriad contributions of chemistry to the economic and social progress of mankind.

I would like to thank you for according me this privilege of addressing you today, more so, for conferring on me this distinct honor, which as a layman in science, I may not be "too technically" deserving. However, in gladly and humbly accepting this "Grand Cross" award by your society, I wish to assure you that this Administration, under my patronage and guidance, will steadfastly give science its proper place in our economic and social development program in consonance with the constitutional mandate regarding the science promotion responsibility of the state and in attunement with the times.

As I have enunciated on several occasions in the past, starting with my inaugural address, and particularly in my talk at the opening of the 1958 National Science Week, I wish to reiterate here the deep concern of this administration in coordinating and accelerating scientific research and technological development so that their application, geared to the multifarious needs of our industry-oriented economy, can bring about beneficial results to the great mass of our people. With this new emphasis on science, we will strive to give better incentives for the promotion of science and for our scientists.

In this modern age, when significant events of global import are happening abroad, many of which are within the realms of scientific discoveries resulting from the work of scientists in their laboratories, we can not afford to lag behind. We must not only train and harness our scientific and technical manpower, but also utilize properly this know-how in order to exploit efficiently, as well as to conserve wisely our bountiful natural resources. Research and development, I admit, is an essential factor necessary to achieve this objective. Science controls the factors of civilization; sustains industries; generates wealth, health, peace, and security. Paradoxically, it can also bring havoc and desolation. I wish to speak on the constructive blessings of science which concern us most, not the destructive aspects.

Science and technology, properly directed and adequately sustained, are the keys to productivity and sufficiency. Productivity in all aspects of the nation's economy should be the goal in national planning. It is gratifying to note that those of our countrymen in the scientific professions have continued to pledge their loyalty and support to the administration towards this end. It would be a worthy contribution to the progress of our country for us to accept the unending challenge of scientific inquiry and to explore the horizons of fundamental and applied research, in order to seek ways and means by which the needs of our fellowmen, basically involving food, clothing, shelter and medicinals, could be multiplied and made readily and cheaply available to them.

Premised on this truism, it will be timely to consider more seriously how the tools of modern science and technology now at our command can be dovetailed into our economic development scheme and, applying their proven potentialities, can facilitate increased production, particularly in food staples and consumer goods for our growing population.

In a broad sense, and considering our subject matter, we should endeavor to give due attention to the following aspects of our economic program: (1) coordination in the undertaking of more intensive industrial and agricultural researches according to a suitable program of priorities; (2) establishment of new and necessary extractive industries; (3) development of our existing cottage or home industries; and (4) improvement of science training and education. In this pattern of scientific and technological promotion and advancement, each of the major operating segments—the government, private industry, scientific professions, and our colleges and universities—should pool resources and contribute their respective share.

The present administration has initiated steps to accelerate scientific and technological research and development. Congress has been most cooperative in our efforts to reshape our agricultural economy into an agro-industrial economy that is backed up by a dynamically aggressive program of scientific research. We have now standing committees on science in both Houses of Congress—the House Committee on Scientific and Technological Research and the Senate Committee on Scientific Advancement. Before my recent trip to the United States, I signed into law, R. A. 2067, known as “The Science Act of 1958,” which is now in the process of implementation. This law recognized the vital role of scientific and technological research in our economic progress, placing the status of science at par with other major activities of the nation. The Chairman of the new National Science Development Board created by this law is of Cabinet rank. I have recently appointed two technically qualified men, former Health Secretary Paulino Garcia and Weather Bureau Director, Casimiro del Rosario, chairman and vice-chairman, respectively, of this new science board. I need not dwell on the details of R. A. 2067, for I know that as scientist you have already perused the said law. I would like to cite, however, some of its salient points.

By virtue of this law, our existing scientific research agencies will be reorganized, particularly the Institute of Science and Technology, which will be reconstituted into the National Institute of Science and Technology and the former Inter-Departmental Committee on Atomic Energy, into the Philippine Atomic Energy Commission. These two operating entities are placed under the administrative supervision of the 11-member National Science Development Board which replaced the former National Science Board previously created by R. A. 1606.

The National Institute of Science and Technology will consist in the meanwhile of five research centers, namely: the Industrial, the Agricultural, the Biological, the Medical, and the Food and Nutrition Research Centers, aside from the usual service divisions necessary in the administration of the institute. With these research operating units and their respective compliments of inquisitive, energetic, and creative minds, we accept that the National Institute of Science and Technology will measure up in time to the goals for which we are reorganizing and expanding it. On the basis of his scientific training and long and devoted services as a career official in the government, I have pieced as Commissioner of this National Institute, Dr. Joaquin Marahon, with the equally prominent scientist, Dr. Canuto Manuel, to assist him as Deputy Commissioner.

The former inter-departmental committee on Atomic Energy has been converted and expanded by provisions of the Science Act into the Philippine Atomic Energy Commission under the National Science Development Board, in order to better meet our international commitment and to initiate studies and investigations in the new, important and rich field of atomic science. The Commission is authorized to initiate the establishment of laboratories for nuclear research and training, designed for the utilization of special nuclear and radio-active materials for commercial, industrial, medical, biological, agricultural, or other peaceful and economic purposes. I have appointed Colonel Medina as Commissioner and Engineer Afafe as Deputy Commissioner of Atomic Energy, both of whom are distinguished and well-qualified scientists in the atomic energy field.

As you will note from the provisions of R. A. 2067, we have tried to draw up a bold program of undertaking a more intensive, coordinated and directed research in the fields that have close bearing to our more immediate needs and existing conditions. The funds initially needed to implement this science program, calculated as within our budgetary means, has been amply increased as compared with those of past administrations. The appropriations already allocated for the research projects assigned to eight science agencies and other future projects of the Board as provided for under R. A. 1606, amounting to about 13.6 million for a period of five years will continue “as is” to augment the fund currently appropriated for the reconstituted offices. It is expected that under this science act, research will be more productive because coordination rather than duplication in the undertaking of selected and carefully evaluated research projects will be adhered to.

Steps to improve science training and education have also been taken. The Department of Education, in cooperation with the former National Science Board, had started the “Youth Talent Search” in which selected bright and promising students will pursue courses in science, chemistry, or engineering at government expense. The Board of National Education had approved the revised curriculum for secondary schools giving stress to the teaching of mathematics and science subjects from first to fourth year.

Many of you in the scientific and technical professions have been sent abroad to pursue graduate studies, some to specialize or observe on fields along your particular line of work under the auspices of our government with the help

of the government of friendly countries and U. N. agencies. The aid accorded our country in this regard, for which we are grateful, has greatly enlarged our reservoir of technical know-how.

It is also encouraging to note that Philippine industry has recognized the need for a more constructive teamwork 'between research and production. A closer relationship now exists between government research agencies and private industrial establishments. The scientific bureaus under the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Institute of Science and Technology, and the Industrial Development Center, to cite a few, have, through their basic and applied research findings, their product-testing standardization and quality control, and their technical training and consultation services, substantially contributed to the growth and expansion of local industries. Manufacturing and mining alone, for instance, have contributed to the national economy ₱1,200 million in 1956, compared to ₱400 million in 1949. In agriculture, research has also generated an increase in the crop yield of our lands and forests.

Stepping-up of our export production is an important task in our endeavors for economic emancipation. To gain a measure of economic stability, a balance between our imports and exports should be established. There is an imperative need of prosecuting an industrialization program not only to turn out more finished commodities, for consumption and semi-processed raw materials for further fabrication, but also to provide new employment opportunities for the greater bulk of our unemployed.

While it is a healthy sign that our imports expanded by 5% since 1949 and our exports have similarly expanded by 74%, this expansion, however, in our export trade is not yet adequate to cover the still higher level of total importation necessitated by our development needs. As I have mentioned in my state-of-the-nation address, I wish to stress again that the acceleration and diversification of our export trade could be greatly assisted by establishing research centers in strategic places, promoting market studies, improving the quality standards of our products, and increasing utilization of the by-products of our major industries. The rice, sugar, and coconut industries, for instance, await the hands and minds of scientists, not only to increase yield, but also to be able to process efficiently their wasted by products and find new industrial products therefrom. The Philippine chemical industry is still in its infancy, and opportunities in this area are great for our technical men and industrialists. If there is one item that we should continue to import or acquire from abroad that could be made dollar-producing, it is scientific and technical know-how, particularly processes and techniques of industrial research and instrumentation that can be readily applied to our raw materials. The positions of science attaches in our embassies abroad as provided for in the new Science Act can help us in this regard.

I have no doubts that the research and development program of this administration as a stabilizing factor in our economy will be successfully carried out in view of the availability of technically trained men and women like you who can be relied upon to help in the various steps of implementation.

As chemists, you have an important role to play in facilitating the diversification and improving the quality of our agro-industrial products. The chemical industry, though one of the younger industries in the world, is now the fastest growing industry. In the U. S. it ranks among the big three industrial giants. The applications of chemical knowledge have been as effective in increasing the efficiency of food production, as has mechanization. Chemical fertilizers, herbicides, fungicides, defoliants, insecticides, and other organic-based chemicals have been of considerable help to farmers. The modern applications of chemurgy in the processing and preservation of fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, and other food products are also of far-reaching significance to the world's food supply. It has been reported that almost forty per cent of chemical sales in the world market today is accounted for by products that did not exist fifteen years ago. Medicinal science, in its long search for a cure for the hitherto incurable malady, cancer, has made a promising start. Now, thanks to research, the goal is almost in sight. Dr. C. P. Rhodes, Director of the Sloan-Kettering Institute, biggest cancer research center in the U. S., recently stated at the close of the seventh international cancer congress in London that cancer can be controlled by chemical means. In the *Manila Times*, daily magazine of July 17, 1958, Dr. Rhodes was reported as saying: "To talk of a pill for cancer eight years ago would have you labelled as a crackpot. Now, we have some pills. They are awful pills, but they are a start."

These examples of remarkable chemical discoveries have been achieved primarily through the pioneering work of chemists.



In the golden pages of history are recorded the names of famous chemists, like Pasteur, Madame Curie, and others, side by side with statesmen and generals. If we honor them, it is because they have in their modest ways, contributed just as much, or perhaps more, to the peace, happiness, and well-being of humanity. The field of chemistry, indeed, offers opportunities for service as broad and rewarding as the challenge and fascination that characterize the dynamic and endless frontiers of science.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**Speech of President Garcia on the acceptance of the Philippine Government of an Ica Dredge from the United States, August 5, 1958**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT OF AN ICA DREDGE FROM THE UNITED STATES, TUESDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 5, 1958**

MR. AMBASSADOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

ON BEHALF of the Republic of the Philippines, it is my pleasure to accept this hydraulic pipeline dredge from the government of the United States. While this will not be the first dredging equipment which we shall receive from the United States yet this will be the first from their foreign aid program which is specifically intended for harbor improvement.

The remarks this afternoon have vividly brought to our awareness the magnitude of our dredging problems. It is for this reason that I have always looked with growing concern for solutions that would offset adverse effects which this unsatisfactory condition of our harbors might have already done to our shipping trade and commerce, one of our main sources of national income, to our national effort toward boosting tourism, and to the reputation of the country as a whole.

The timely delivery of this worthy piece of machinery comes therefore at a crucial time when corrective measures to solve the critical deficiencies of our major harbors have become one of extreme national concern. It is to be regretted, however, that our effort towards this end has to be inextricably linked with our current dollar reserve conservation policy which compounds the problem with the difficulty in raising the much needed foreign exchange with which to procure essential capital goods of the type of this hydraulic pipeline dredge. Because of this financial "shots in the arm" the immediate significance of the ceremony this afternoon is our material gain. But far transcending this perhaps is that this benevolent gesture is one of the many manifestations of the friendly relations that now exist and should exist between our two governments and peoples. I am probably voicing the sentiment of our people in saying that through this practical demonstration of valuable aid of one nation to one of its loyal allies, we feel a greater attachment to the bond that has united our peoples' hopes and aspirations. This relationship that has been forged in the crucible of the last war, makes for our happy co-existence in this trying time of peace.

I want to assure you, Mr. Ambassador, that this equipment, as we have treated other such equipment in the past, shall be put only to such uses that will prove beneficial to the country as a whole. We are not stopping here, however, for in spite of the limited resources we have at hand, we have, as a matter of fact, been able to negotiate successfully recently the acquisition of a bracket ladder dredge.

During my recent trip to your country, we made representations with your government for the acquisition of an additional sea-going hopper dredge and three hydraulic cutter type dredges, *not as a direct dole but on a straight business loan proposition* whereby as a consequence of the loan, we will oblige our government to pledge its paying capacity to provide the debt service requirement for them. Besides this amortization payment, I am quite aware of the effect of the expansion of our dredging fleet upon the annual budget owing to the resulting needs for their increased operation and maintenance. I know how inadequate our present peso resources for this purpose are, but cognizant of the manifold indirect benefits that will inevitably accrue in the form of unhampered shipping operations, increased national income, elimination of shipping losses, to mention only a few, I would recommend the examination of the effects of this fleet expansion upon the budget with the view to determining proper appropriations I could recommend in order to insure that this equipment is utilized to the optimum.

A formal application has been filed for this project. It is our ardent hope that this application will bear the patronage of your government, too.

In speaking for my government and my people, therefore, I wish to express to your government and the American people through you, Mr. Ambassador, our sincere appreciation for this concrete evidence of a type of a useful material aid of one friendly nation to the economic well-being of another. I would however be remiss in my obligations to my own colleagues in the executive branch of my government, were I to neglect to commend publicly

the Office of the Foreign Aid Coordination of the National Economic Council and the Bureau of Public Works of the Department of Public Works and Communications for having successfully negotiated the acquisition of this dredge with the able assistance of your local ICA Mission.

On behalf of the Republic of the Philippines and as its President, I now accept and, subject to other formalities, order the commission of this dredge under the Philippine National Flag.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Speech of President Garcia before the League of Government prosecutors at the Manila Hotel, Saturday Evening, August 9, 1958**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH BEFORE THE LEAGUE OF GOVERNMENT PROSECUTORS AT THE MANILA HOTEL, SATURDAY EVENING, AUGUST 9, 1958**

I ACCEPTED your invitation fortnight with more than my usual enthusiasm because the occasion affords me an opportunity to speak on a subject which is of vital interest to everyone and before officials who are directly concerned with it. I refer to the administration of justice in this country, with particular emphasis on the part assigned to government prosecutors.

The organization of the League of Government Prosecutors, I think, was a step towards the right direction. It enables you to get together and exchange views, discuss your common problems, and perhaps find solutions for them.

Your office as government prosecutors is a necessary part of the machinery for the administration of justice. You are directly charged with the prosecution of all criminal cases. You also, conduct preliminary investigations, a function which until a few years back was exclusively that of judges of courts of first instance, justices of the peace, the city fiscal of Manila, and, under certain circumstances, municipal mayors. Because of the powers that go with your office, which make an inept, incompetent, unscrupulous, or unprincipled prosecutor dangerous, a good prosecutor, I think, must possess three indispensable qualifications. The first, of course, is adequate professional background, training, and experience; the second is industry and sense of dedication; and the last but not the least is high moral character and broad human understanding.

The first qualification should be obvious to anyone and requires no elucidation. No government prosecutor can properly and efficiently discharge the duties of his office without adequate preparation for the position. The lack of it weakens public confidence in the government and in the administration of justice because it is often the cause of miscarriage of justice. The law fixes the experience and qualification of a fiscal, but this is not always a guaranty of professional competence because much depends on the individual office holder. The trouble is—if I may speak in a light vein—while men are created equal their inequalities commence from the moment they are created.

As to the second qualification, no lawyer should aspire to be a fiscal unless he is willing to work and is prepared to assume the responsibilities of the office. As we all know, and I am speaking as from a lawyer to lawyers, the profession of law is very demanding and no lawyer, however brilliant he may be, can afford to neglect it. It requires continuous study and application. So do not be self-satisfied and stop growing professionally, because if you do you are sure to stagnate and be left behind. Remember, there is a keen competition in the profession. Keep yourselves posted with the law and the new decisions; If you cannot afford the expense, require the city or the province where you are assigned to subscribe to the *Official Gazette*, to the advance decisions of our appellate courts, and, to broaden your knowledge, outlook, and understanding, to law journals here and abroad. Thus may you properly and adequately prepare yourselves for better opportunities, bigger responsibilities, and larger usefulness.

The tendency to follow the line of least resistance is a universal failing. Fiscals are not free from it. Some find it easier to leave the handling of even the most serious or important cases to their assistants, forgetting that, as the chief prosecutors, the investigation of crimes and the prosecution of criminal cases is their direct responsibility. I hope that no one of you is a victim of the habit.

In these days of clogged court dockets, when detention prisoners languish in jail for months and even for years without the benefit of a trial, the speedy disposition of criminal cases should be your particular concern. Because such speedy disposition is your joint responsibility with the trial courts, you are expected to exert every effort towards clearing the clogged dockets. In your enthusiasm and your impatience, however, you should take careful precaution against the commission of injustice. My attention has been called to a recent case against an accused who was convicted solely on the qualified admissions of her counsel. Apart from her plea of not guilty upon arraignment, the accused said nothing during the entire summary proceeding. She was not even asked to confirm or deny her counsel's qualified admissions and no witness, either for the prosecution or for the defense, was required to give testimony. The Fiscal cannot evade his share of the responsibility for the irregular proceeding which deprived the

accused of her day in court. His impatience and that of the trial judge did not result in speedy justice but in hurried injustice, I trust that in the performance of your duties farcical proceedings such as the one I have just described may not be repeated. What I am driving at is that while it is your duty as government prosecutors to go after criminals, you should not be indifferent to the rights of persons accused of crimes. Moreover, because courts decide cases only upon the evidence presented to them, much of the power to acquit or convict rests in your hands. Use that power judiciously and be sure that no person regardless of the evidence goes to jail for a crime he did not commit. After all, the administration of justice is the goal of every criminal prosecution.

I am reminded at this juncture of Judge Bernard Botwin's very interesting book, *THE PROSECUTOR*, based largely upon the author's observations as an investigator and a prosecutor before his appointment to the New York State Supreme Court. His principal character is a brilliant and ambitious but utterly unscrupulous public prosecutor who, to win headlines and fame, would make use of fabricated evidence he himself helps secure to insure conviction. I commend the book to you, not only because it is an interesting reading but also because it points out the mistakes you must avoid as government prosecutors.

The municipal and the justice of the peace courts constitute perhaps the most important part of our judicial system, because to them the masses usually go for redress. Any injustice however minor committed in these courts gives the poor and often ignorant litigant a deep sense of frustration. In actual practice, however, criminal cases in justice of the peace courts are prosecuted by the local chief of police. The practice has its weak points because the ordinary policeman is usually unfamiliar with law and court procedure. The prosecution of criminal cases is your direct responsibility and I wish that you would pay personal attention to criminal cases in these courts.

And now for the third and last qualification. Every prosecutor must have a high standard of morality to serve as his guidepost in the performance of his duties. A fiscal with solid moral background is a safe guaranty against misfeasance in office. On the other hand, because of the powers that go with his office, a weak, unprincipled or dishonest government prosecutor is both dangerous and unfit to hold office. Imagine, for instance, a fiscal prosecuting a person for a crime when at one time or another that fiscal has been guilty of a similar offense.

I can not close these short remarks without letting you know that I am not unaware of your problems. In the discharge of your duties you are often subjected to temptation or strong pressure which is sometimes hard to resist. My advice is that you stand your ground. Your strong moral background serves you to good advantage in such situation. If you do what is right, as you must, you can count on my support and that of our Secretary of Justice whose sense of fairness and dedication are matters of public knowledge.

*Source:* University of the Philippines College of Law Library

**Speech of President Garcia at the Fifth Annual Constitutional Convention of the PTUC, August 17, 1958**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH AT THE TURNOVER CEREMONIES OF FARM IMPLEMENTS DONATED TO FILIPINO FARMERS BY U.S. INDUSTRIES, INC., HELD ON AUGUST 23, 1958, AT PIER 9 IN THE PORT AREA**

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS:

THE STATE VISIT I recently made to the United States on a mission of goodwill and friendship has struck a responsive chord from both governmental and private levels so spontaneous and overflowing that could only bespeak of the heart-warming concern the Americans have for the people of my country.

One tangible proof of this concern is manifested today in the actual presentation of farm tools and heavy-duty engine lathe originally presented to me by two of America's great industrial companies while I was in the United States.

On behalf of the Filipino people, who are indeed the ultimate beneficiaries of this magnanimous gesture, I thank these two industrial concerns—the U. S. Industries, Inc., and Koppel (Philippines) Inc.—for this invaluable gift. The material value of this donation, impressive as it is, pales beside the value count of the spirit with which it has been given. For these tools represent the goodwill and warmheartedness that the United States feels towards the Filipinos.

The intentions of the donors can not be equated with mere expressions of appreciation. The true worth of the gift is in its effective utilization, the fulfillment of its purposes. It is, therefore, our inescapable duty to see to it that this is so.

Allow me, therefore, my friends, to do a verbal unwrapping of the gift and the intentions which I propose for it. The Axelson heavy-duty engine lathe, valued at ₱ 80,00, will be installed at the Machine Shop of the NASSCO on Engineer Island, where it can be of greatest use in our industrial projects.

The agricultural implements, worth ₱ 120,000, consist of 1,500.0 plows, 1,000 wheelbarrows, 4,000 spades, 1,000 corn-grinders, and 1,000-handsaws. These are equipment which our farmers need most. It is my expressed desire that these tools shall go to them who should be benefited most—the small farmers throughout the country.

I have created a special committee which shall be responsible for the equitable distribution and utilization of these farm equipment, for I will not have these tools ill-used for personal aggrandizement or misused for political purposes.

This committee will be charged with one task—to see to it that only the small and deserving farmers get them and use them. This committee will be responsible to me, and I, in turn, will be personally accountable to the farmers of the Philippines for whom the U.S. Industries and the Koppel Philippines had intended this donation.

Our farmers need incentives for greater production. Needless to say, the Administration is committed to a program of ultimate self-sufficiency in food production. This donation of farm tools, properly utilized, can be of considerable help in the food production campaign.

We need more feeder roads in order to make the rural areas more accessible for commerce and communication. Self-help projects already undertaken by our rural communities will be given a big boost through the use of these equipment. More roads can be built in the barrios. More home gardens can be developed. Better rural home facilities can be constructed. There is, indeed, no end to the enumeration of worthy uses to which these tools can be applied in barrio life.

We have with us this afternoon the heads of various government entities and, agencies which have immediate concern with agriculture and industry. I will draw upon their services for the intelligent, useful and skillful

management and utilization of the donation which the U.S. Industries and the Koppel Philippines have made to our people.

We also have with us this afternoon a representation of farmers, from all parts of the country, typical of those who will, benefit from this donation. Their presence here strikes a happy note for the occasion, for indeed they are here to see for themselves the donation which would ultimately be theirs and to bear witness to the pledge I have just made that all these equipment shall be put to good use.

Mr. Fittinghoff: On behalf of the people of the Philippines, I accept this donation, fully cognizant of the warm friendship and thoughtful concern behind it. With this acceptance goes my assurance that every effort shall be exerted to the fruitful utilization of each and every single equipment here at hand. I thank you.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia at the kick-off ceremony launched this year's Anti-TB Fund Campaign, August 18, 1958**

**SPEECH OF PRESIDENT GARCIA AT THE KICK-OFF CEREMONY LAUNCHED THIS YEAR'S ANTI-TB FUND CAMPAIGN AT MALACAÑANG, MONDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 18, 1958, ON THE EVE OF PRESIDENT QUEZON'S BIRTHDAY**

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

AFTER years and years of relentless effort on the part of both the Philippine Government and the Philippine Tuberculosis Society, the scourge that is Tuberculosis still claims thousands upon thousands of lives annually in our country, seriously depleting our manpower resources, at a time when said manpower resources are in great demand to cope with the requirements of a rapidly growing nation.

Of course, it cannot be denied that much has been accomplished in the field of tuberculosis control in the Philippines; yet it must be admitted that much more remains to be done.

Tonight, we are gathered here to open formally the annual fund-raising drive of the Philippine Tuberculosis Society. In my capacity as Honorary President of the Philippine Tuberculosis Society, as well as on my behalf as head of this nation, I humbly appeal to all residents of the Philippines, citizens and foreigners alike, to support this very worthy cause.

While the Government is doing its utmost in controlling tuberculosis through the far-flung activities of the Department of Health, the active assistance of the people is needed to bolster the efforts of our Government which, because of limited resources can utilize every available help. In the annual fund drive of the Philippine Tuberculosis Society, our people have magnificent opportunity to show their interest in this laudable undertaking and to participate actively in the gallant fight against the white plague. Through the generous voluntary donations of the public, collected through the efforts of numerous unselfish and civic-spirited volunteers, our people have a splendid chance to play a role in the nation-wide campaign to stamp out tuberculosis, which is sapping our national strength unremittingly.

Our country, as all of us know, has emerged from the political era into what has been termed as the "economic era," during which the economic problems of the country take precedence over and above everything else. And referring to the vast industrialization program which confronts the nation during this crucial period of our economic history, we should not overlook one important factor, the manpower factor. We may have the dollars with which to establish industries, buy the latest equipment and the finest raw materials, but if a major portion of our population suffers from disease, we shall positively fail in the job of solidifying our economy. This is in recognition of the fact that in the growth of industry, the manpower plays a very important part.

I am aware, of course, of the number of fund campaigns now going on, and the terrific problem in fund raising that this poses. But we have no chance. The job of fighting the White Plague is very important and requires the help of everybody.

I take advantage of this opportunity to commend those who are doing such a wonderful job in maintaining the Society and securing funds for its support. But, as I said before, the efforts and cooperation of everyone are needed.

I appeal to all of you to support this campaign generously. This is one civic organization that has performed its obligations faithfully and is, therefore, fully deserving of your assistance.



On my part, let me start the drive with my own personal contribution of ₱1,000.00. I hope the campaign will be overwhelmingly successful. I extend to you all my best wishes.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

## **Speech of President Garcia at the Quezon Day Rites, August 19, 1958**

### **SPEECH OF PRESIDENT GARCIA AT THE QUEZON DAY RITES HELD IN QUEZON CITY, TUESDAY AFTERNOON AUGUST 19, 1958, IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF THE LATE PRESIDENT QUEZON**

MAYOR  
DISTINGUISHED  
MY COUNTRYMEN:

AMORANTO,  
GUESTS,

WE COMMEMORATE today the 80th birthday anniversary of one of our Motherland's greatest sons. Born to parents who both taught school in out-of-the-way Baler, Tayabas, where only the Spanish residents owned watches and clocks, the exact time of his birth was ascertained only because it coincided with the first ringing of the church bells for the first mass during the town fiesta, which was 7 o'clock in the morning. Having dedicated all his life since the age of 20 to the service of our country and people, he died at the age of 66 in a sanatorium in Saranac Lake, New York. He was called by his Maker when the Philippines was under enemy occupation, when the scheduled establishment of our national sovereignty and independence for which he had ceaselessly labored was less than two years away, and when he himself was an exile in a foreign, if benevolent land. Ravaged by tuberculosis, anxious and nostalgic for his home, and tortured by the uncertain fate of his people and country, Manuel L. Quezon truly died a martyr.

In his early youth he fought vainly in war to help redeem the freedom of his country. In peace he worked successfully to obtain our country's independence from the sovereign power that had replaced Spain, the United States of America. At the head of the Government of the Commonwealth he was engaged in the final preparations for the establishment of the Republic of the Philippines when the Pacific War broke out and interrupted the peaceful and orderly work of liberation. The Japanese invaded and occupied the country for three nightmarish years. This unhappy development gave Manuel L. Quezon still another opportunity to serve his nation in war, giving up his life in the process.

This time, however, he did not wear a uniform nor shoulder a gun. He served as the rallying symbol of resistance against the enemy. As a refugee in the United States, through his public speeches, his voice as the representative of his country in the United Nations organization and the Pacific War, Council, and his personal contacts with American and other allied officials at the highest level, he greatly hastened American effort to liberate the Philippines from the enemy and thus shortened the days of humiliating enemy occupation.

It will never be known how much shorter was the ordeal of our people under the enemy because of Manuel L. Quezon's effective work in the United States. But we do know that he gave up his life for this great and urgent task. Long suffering from tuberculosis, it was perhaps a foregone conclusion that, as a war refugee living in the tunnels of Corregidor, traveling by submarine, ship, and airplane always hunted by the enemy, and forever anxious about the fate of his country, he would not survive the war. Yet so completely obsessed was he by the vision of a liberated Philippines that, through sheer willpower and in spite of the steadily worsening condition of his health, he lived to see the conflict's decisive turning point. It was in fact a radio announcement that General MacArthur's forces had just landed at a point only 800 miles away, relentlessly on their way back to the Philippines, which unduly excited him that Sunday morning on August 1, 1944, agitating his soul in mixed anxiety and joy, and precipitated his death.

Although Manuel L. Quezon has gone to his just reward, he has left to our people a precious legacy that has become an important part of our nation's capital asset. If we not only safeguard but also build upon it, we shall forever be rich and wise people. Among the most precious items in the great Quezon heritage are enlightened nationalism, democracy anchored on social justice, and shining patriotism. To us, they are truly a rich source of pride and inspiration.

As a nationalist, Quezon was realistic and farsighted. He was barely 20 years old when he joined General Aguinaldo's forces that were fighting the American forces. His exploits as a young officer, from the time he volunteered to the time he surrendered, make up a tale of extraordinary courage and fortitude. Realizing that, after

the capture of General Aguinaldo by the Americans, the Filipinos had lost the war, he gave himself up to General MacArthur in Malacañang so as to verify at the same time the American claim that they had Aguinaldo in their power. Having found the American claim true, he followed the only road open to him; he returned to civilian life to work for the liberty of his country in the realm of peace.

Soon after the establishment of civil government and on the occasion of the first national election to choose the first members of the Philippine Assembly in 1907, Manuel Quezon and Sergio Osmeña, both still relatively young men, led in the organization of the Nacionalista Party and, through its historic platform, announced the basis of a new farsighted Philippine nationalism. Repudiating the obsession of the first Filipino leaders in government to annex the Philippines to United States, the Party and its leaders launched a firm and vigorous campaign for immediate independence. The people rallied around the two leaders and gave them and their party their overwhelming and enthusiastic support. Under their joint direction, Osmeña as leader from 1907 to 1922 and Quezon thereafter, the Jones Act and the Tydings-McDuffie Independence Law were obtained. In recognition of the decisive and dramatic part played by Manuel Quezon in the long campaign that culminated in the scheduled grant of independence, our people awarded him the highest honor within their gift—the presidency of the nation.

The nationalism that Quezon taught us was not petty but great-hearted, not docile but firm, not jingoistic but enlightened, not inflammatory but constructive. It was the nationalism of neither a demagogue nor a megalomaniac; it was the nationalism of a wise statesman.

Having settled the question of independence with the enactment of the Tydings-McDuffie Act and having been elected President of the Commonwealth, Manuel L. Quezon inaugurated the first social justice program that, like a welcome rain to a parched land, brought new life and meaning to the existence of our masses.

Under American rule, democracy in the Philippines seeped from the top. It was logical that American effort would be mainly aimed at the training of the leaders who would then carry on the work of democratizing the country. The Quezon social justice program supplemented the process by democratizing from the bottom. Comprehended in the Quezon program were our first Minimum Wage Law, Eight-Hour Labor Law, Land Resettlement Act, Tenancy Act, and many other laws that encouraged and lifted the common man. It became the broad basis for the greatly-expanded social justice program of the Republic.

A luminous and courageous statesmanship glowed throughout Manuel L. Quezon's long public career. When an American Governor-General threatened, to reduce the measure of Filipino self-government, alleging that inefficiency had resulted from an overdose of autonomy, the Filipino leader had his finest hour. Resisting the American chief executive firmly but respectfully, he roared in indignation like a hurt lion: "Better a government run like hell by Filipinos than a government run like heaven by Americans!" And when he found it necessary to split the party in whose fold he had attained public stature, he declared with courage and patriotism: "My loyalty to my party ends where my loyalty to my country begins!" He had an uncanny ability to put the issues of the day in lapidary phrases that became deathless and inspiring.

My countrymen, it goes without saying that our own generation can best honor the memory of our departed leader by shaping our trusteeship of the public welfare in the image of his high achievements. We must faithfully apply the wisdom of his statesmanship to the problems of our Republic. The enlightened and farsighted Quezon nationalism must inspire and guide our foreign policies. The Quezon social justice reforms must be the solid base of our program of rural improvement, national economic development, and democratic growth. The Quezon standard of patriotic and courageous public service must be the standard of our expanding government service.

We shall, however, fail and disappoint our pioneer statesman and render his great work in vain if we lack the originality and imagination to expand his basic principles to the massive proportions of our present problems and needs. We can, I think, give warranty to our times, that we can do this by making sure that honesty in government is not a mere phrase but an actual practice, that our public policies are as sound as they are farsighted, that we show maturity in the use and practice of our rights and liberties in a democratic and sovereign nation.

To a certain extent, bigness in government can mean weakness. This sounds paradoxical but in some respects true. For bigness primarily spells more extensive resources, greater population, increased strength. In terms, however, of more extensive and more varied public services, greater personnel to assemble and supervise, and bigger problems to cope with, bigness can be a disadvantage. If in a personnel of 100 there is one dishonest man, in a personnel of 1,000 there can be 10 dishonest men and in 10,000 at least 100. Where a leader can effectively lead 100 men, he may be slowed down and hampered by 10,000.

There is no doubt that the problems of the nation have grown and multiplied since the days of the Commonwealth. The Republic must look not only to its domestic welfare, as did the Commonwealth, but also to its international survival. It must spread ever-wider and ever-deeper among the people the benefits and blessings of liberty, prosperity, and contentment, and it must play a respectable part in the common search for world peace and security. Yet, we should conceive of the greater problems of the present as a challenge to our energies, to our capacities, and to our patriotism.

In our new task of promoting and establishing friendship and amity with other nations and thus insure our prosperity and survival, there is a clear and compelling guide in the enlightened and firm nationalism of Manuel L. Quezon. Neither xenophobic nor submissively colonial, he actively and courageously affirmed the dignity and self-respect of his race and aspired for nothing more no less than equality. It was upon his own suggestion that the clear bases of the Republic's future foreign policies were written into our Constitution. Among these are the affirmation that the Philippines renounces war as an instrument of national policy and adopts the generally-accepted principles of international law as part of the law of the nation. And to emphasize this policy all the more, the Constitution defines the limits of our national territory by way of announcing to the world that we covet no other. By closely and faithfully abiding by the spirit of these declarations, we shall not fail to shape a norm of international conduct that will guarantee friendship with all nations and therefore security for our country, our territory, and our people.

For a long time now many of our people have looked upon public service as an opportunity to get rich. Venality has thrived because there has been lacking a strong and lasting alliance between public opinion on the one hand and statesmanship on the other. When public opinion has been strong, statesmanship has been lax, and when statesmanship has been vigorous, public opinion has been indifferent. Neither one nor the other alone can insure honesty in government. Both must squeeze out of the malefactors from above and from below in a sustained, coordinated and massive pressure that will show them neither pity nor mercy. We in the administration are doing our part; we have begun to investigate the more sensitive government offices and will not stop until we have purged the entire public service of the undesirable elements. But we urge the public to do its part. Public opinion must be equally aroused and determined to weed out of the government offices the niggling parasites and treacherous termites. With such a support, we cannot fail.

Only honest public servants can conceive and execute honest and wise public services. Again, in the shaping of public policies, statesmanship must have the cooperation of public opinion. But it must not be carping, publicity-seeking, narrowly-partisan, or strictly group-conscious. It must be honest and intelligent with an eye single to the common welfare. One of the basic virtues of democracy is the freedom the people enjoy in the discussion of public affairs and in this way churn out from the depth of their genius their basic wisdom and their highest ingenuity.

And this can happen only if the people make use of their democratic liberties with thoughtfulness and circumspection. Careless accusations, sweeping fulminations, undocumented indictment are in the code of responsible citizenship. The democratic liberties are not meant to create or intensify unfounded suspicious or sneaking distrusts or mistaken enmities, but to make possible criticism without malice and the exposure without ulterior end of whatever may be evil in the body politic. In its highest employment, freedom should make possible free and voluntary cooperation characterized by mutual good will.

Just as yellow journalism is the primitive and destructive manifestation of this essential profession, so irresponsible and sensational comments on public affairs or against public officials is a sign of democratic immaturity. It takes honest and responsible critics of government to guide honest and responsible government officials, and it takes honest and responsible officials to run an honest and responsible government.

Therefore, my countrymen, on this day that marks the 80th birthday anniversary of our great patriot and leader, Manuel L. Quezon, I urge you to pledge with me that, out of respect to his memory, as a response to the challenge of his example, and as proof of our greater maturity as a people, we shall cooperate together to make of our Republic for which he died, forever a land of social justice and equal opportunity, of enlightened nationalism, of honest public service, and of responsible freedom.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia at the turnover ceremonies of farm implements donated to Filipino farmers by U.S. Industries, Inc., August 23, 1958**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH AT THE TURNOVER CEREMONIES OF FARM IMPLEMENTS DONATED TO FILIPINO FARMERS BY U.S. INDUSTRIES, INC., HELD ON AUGUST 23, 1958, AT PIER 9 IN THE PORT AREA**

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS:

THE STATE VISIT I recently made to the United States on a mission of goodwill and friendship has struck a responsive chord from both governmental and private levels so spontaneous and overflowing that could only bespeak of the heart-warming concern the Americans have for the people of my country.

One tangible proof of this concern is manifested today in the actual presentation of farm tools and heavy-duty engine lathe originally presented to me by two of America's great industrial companies while I was in the United States.

On behalf of the Filipino people, who are indeed the ultimate beneficiaries of this magnanimous gesture, I thank these two industrial concerns—the U. S. Industries, Inc., and Koppel (Philippines) Inc.—for this invaluable gift. The material value of this donation, impressive as it is, pales beside the value count of the spirit with which it has been given. For these tools represent the goodwill and warmheartedness that the United States feels towards the Filipinos.

The intentions of the donors can not be equated with mere expressions of appreciation. The true worth of the gift is in its effective utilization, the fulfillment of its purposes. It is, therefore, our inescapable duty to see to it that this is so.

Allow me, therefore, my friends, to do a verbal unwrapping of the gift and the intentions which I propose for it. The Axelson heavy-duty engine lathe, valued at ₱ 80,00, will be installed at the Machine Shop of the NASSCO on Engineer Island, where it can be of greatest use in our industrial projects.

The agricultural implements, worth ₱ 120,000, consist of 1,500.0 plows, 1,000 wheelbarrows, 4,000 spades, 1,000 corn-grinders, and 1,000-handsaws. These are equipment which our farmers need most. It is my expressed desire that these tools shall go to them who should be benefited most—the small farmers throughout the country.

I have created a special committee which shall be responsible for the equitable distribution and utilization of these farm equipment, for I will not have these tools ill-used for personal aggrandizement or misused for political purposes.

This committee will be charged with one task—to see to it that only the small and deserving farmers get them and use them. This committee will be responsible to me, and I, in turn, will be personally accountable to the farmers of the Philippines for whom the U.S. Industries and the Koppel Philippines had intended this donation.

Our farmers need incentives for greater production. Needless to say, the Administration is committed to a program of ultimate self-sufficiency in food production. This donation of farm tools, properly utilized, can be of considerable help in the food production campaign.

We need more feeder roads in order to make the rural areas more accessible for commerce and communication. Self-help projects already undertaken by our rural communities will be given a big boost through the use of these equipment. More roads can be built in the barrios. More home gardens can be developed. Better rural home facilities

can be constructed. There is, indeed, no end to the enumeration of worthy uses to which these tools can be applied in barrio life.

We have with us this afternoon the heads of various government entities and, agencies which have immediate concern with agriculture and industry. I will draw upon their services for the intelligent, useful and skillful management and utilization of the donation which the U.S. Industries and the Koppel Philippines have made to our people.

We also have with us this afternoon a representation of farmers, from all parts of the country, typical of those who will, benefit from this donation. Their presence here strikes a happy note for the occasion, for indeed they are here to see for themselves the donation which would ultimately be theirs and to bear witness to the pledge I have just made that all these equipment shall be put to good use.

Mr. Fittinghoff: On behalf of the people of the Philippines, I accept this donation, fully cognizant of the warm friendship and thoughtful concern behind it. With this acceptance goes my assurance that every effort shall be exerted to the fruitful utilization of each and every single equipment here at hand. I thank you.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Speech of President Garcia during the inaugural ceremonies of the opening of Davao Airport, held at 9:30 a.m., August 25, 1958**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH DURING THE INAUGURAL CEREMONIES OF THE OPENING OF DAVAO AIRPORT, HELD AT 9:30 A.M., AUGUST 25, 1958**

MY FRIENDS:

THE PROFICIENCY with which the flight from Manila to this city was negotiated in just about two hours abroad the Viscount tends to make this trip pleasantly routinary in retrospect. Yet today we have just witnessed another epoch in the history of aviation in our country—the diminution of travel time in our part of the world.

We have made progress. And progress has been made possible with the opening of this new Davao airport. The opening of this airport has enlarged the horizons of trade, commerce, and communications in this country to embrace nearly all points in the South now. Within the next few years, I predict that Davao, progressive as it is now, will ride high on the upthrust of progress.

I see in the opening of this modern airport greater opportunities for business activities here. Your present method of buying and selling or of distributing your products will be immensely altered with the introduction of the fastest means of transportation available hereabouts.

Air travel likewise will increase personal contacts among our people. And this will generate better understanding among us, a basic factor for business, sound economy, and the attributes of all political, social, and cultural progress.

I am gratified to note that the Civil Aeronautics Administration has undertaken to develop airports with a view to linking major centers of trade and, at the same time, pursued its policy of increasing feeder air routes. This program will doubtless bear results in terms of greater benefits to the masses.

I also note with great satisfaction that you people are actively extending wholehearted support for our government's program not only in civil aviation matters but likewise in several other aspects of governmental activities designed to improve the welfare of the people.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey to you my thanks for this support. Being positive of your continued interest and assistance, I know I cannot fail.

The principal mission of my administration is to promote and raise the economic life of our people. To achieve this goal, many varied factors and activities must necessarily come to play.

I am placing more emphasis on the building of more and better airports in the country, without in any way slackening on the construction of roads and bridges in the different parts of the country. Today, I am particularly happy that the construction of this concrete runway has been effected in Davao, as this highly progressive province lies in the farthest south and therefore stretches the trunkline route considerably so as to make this route the longest one today.

Other principal cities and places in the Philippines will be the next construction targets, since one of the salient policies of my administration is to afford to the largest number of people the benefits of modern air transportation.

As I have already mentioned, the furnishing of air service to various parts of the Philippines will contribute immeasurably to the economic development of the country and to the raising of the standard of economic life of our people.



I wish, on this occasion, to commend the men behind our aviation projects for this splendid accomplishment in promoting civil aviation and air transportation in our country. Projects and activities such as this will always receive attention and encouragement from my administration.

Last but not least, I would like to extend my congratulations to all persons and entities who contributed in kind and in deed to achieve this important project. From here, we can all look to greatly expanded use of air transportation. We can look forward to affording greater service to the citizens of this city and to helping raise their standard of living.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines College of Law Library**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia on the occasion of the conferment on him of the degree of Doctor of Humanities by Xavier University, on August 27, 1958**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA’S SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF THE CONFERMENT ON HIM OF THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF HUMANITIES BY XAVIER UNIVERSITY, ON AUGUST 27, 1958, IN CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY**

YOUR EXCELLENCY, REVEREND FATHERS,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I THINK I would be less than human if the honor that has just been conferred upon me this evening, did not make me feel proud and grateful at once.

There are many reasons why to be the first recipient of an honorary degree from Xavier University, is a distinction I am proud to carry and grateful to receive. One of them, in passing, is that it is very gratifying to receive this kind of degree for a change, at a time when some critics are overly anxious to give my administration a “third degree.”

I am sure you will not blame me if I consider the kind of degree that Xavier University gives, more welcome than the other type as a source of inspiration and encouragement to serve God and my country to the best of my ability.

I therefore wish to thank the authorities of Xavier University, especially Father Francisco Araneta, the President, for conferring this honorary doctorate upon me. I appreciate it all the more because this occasion coincides with the inauguration of the first university ever to be established in Mindanao. It is an occasion of great significance not only for this region but for the whole country.

Mindanao, with its vast tracts of land and its wealth of natural resources still largely undeveloped, has always been looked upon as a land of promise. The opening of a university here is a milestone on the road to the fulfillment of that promise. For a university, ladies and gentlemen, is not only a center to which the cream of our youth go to drink from the fountain of knowledge; it is also the center from which the fruits of study and research will be diffused. I have always been advocating the development of scientific research as a means of raising the standard of living of our people, and I believe that Mindanao offers a rich field whose development by scientific methods would be of great benefit to the country as a whole.

The role that a modern university can play in the development of a region such as this, is enormous. I am glad to know that the authorities of Xavier University are keenly aware, of their role, and that this institution is precisely geared to be a potent instrument in developing this vast area.

The concept of the role of a university as a pioneering institution, is in keeping with the tradition of similar institutions managed by the Jesuit Fathers in other parts of the world. There is the Jesuit university in Nova Scotia, for instance, which has transformed an entire community of small fishermen, into a progressive community with its own canning factory which is the backbone of a thriving industry. It accomplished this transformation by slowly educating the people in the use of cooperatives, thus assuring them of a more secure livelihood and a greater measure of economic independence.

This is an example of a university alive to its role in the community. It undertook the necessary research and made the required studies of the needs of the community, and conducted an experiment which today is a model in community development.

I understand that it is a role similar to this that the authorities of Xavier University envision for this institution, and I congratulate them for their vision and foresight.

It is in recognition for their efforts towards this objective that the Community Development Research Council, a research foundation sponsored by the President's Assistant for Community Development (PACD), has given a one-year research grant to the Social Science Research Institute of this university. The government grant is intended to aid this university in the study of barrio factors which can assist or impede agricultural and other extension projects undertaken by community development workers. Side by side with its efforts to elevate the material condition of the people in this region, this university will of course continue its vital function of forming the minds of those who will one day be leaders in this country.

Recently, I had the privilege to meet with representatives of Catholic schools throughout the Philippines. It was an occasion for me to express my belief, as I do now, that education which emphasizes spiritual and moral values is a distinct contribution to the formation of sound, law-abiding citizens.

It is true that we are greatly concerned these days with the economic problems of our country, with the great need for the economic and social uplift of our people. But it would be a serious mistake to diagnose our problems as purely economic, and to seek for solutions which leave out the moral and spiritual condition of our people. Our country, indeed, the whole world, is suffering today from the attempt to divorce economics and politics from ethical principles. It is one of the functions of a university to see that a balance is maintained between progress in the material sphere as a result of the advance of knowledge, and a corresponding awareness among the people of their moral and civic responsibilities.

After all, while we are seeking economic progress and a higher standard of living for our people consonant with our status as an independent nation, we are not after economic progress at all costs. Communist China has achieved a certain degree of material progress, but it is repugnant to our democratic concept of the dignity of man to pay for such progress as Red China did, with the surrender of our freedoms, the abandonment of our religious and ethical beliefs, and the degradation of the human person.

If we succeed in solving our economic problems but fail in strengthening the moral fiber of our people, our country would only be a prey to the ills that befall all weak nations.

I am glad, therefore, that the first university to be established here in Mindanao is one whose clearly announced policy is to direct its efforts to the development of this region and its people, at the same time imbuing its students with a social consciousness motivated by the highest religious and moral ideals.

It is lack of social conscience which in large measure is the cause of agrarian unrest in more crowded agricultural areas where the communists have managed to fan the flames of rebellion. While it is true that today there is still plenty of land in Mindanao, a time will eventually come as this region develops, when population pressure will increase, and you will have the makings of another Central Luzon unless the spirit of Christian charity and fraternal understanding is instilled among the people right from the beginning.

Allow me to conclude by recalling the great saint after whom this university has been named. It is very fitting that the name of Francis Xavier, the Apostle of the East, has been given to this university. St. Francis Xavier, as you know, was a product of the great European University of Paris. The faith and knowledge of the truth that he imbibed from that university, he carried with him to the East where he lived the life of the people whom he had set out to convert to Christianity. His was a brave spirit, spirit of a trail-blazer, of a pioneer who wanted to open new vistas for the greater honor and glory of God.

I think that it is in much the same spirit that Xavier University has been established. I am proud and deeply honored to be associated with the beginnings of an institution dedicated to such a great and noble ideal.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**



**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Message of President Garcia read by Health Secretary Elpidio Valencia during the Appreciation Tea given by President and Mrs. Garcia in honor, of Outstanding Fund Campaign Volunteers of the Philippine National Red Cross at the Malacañang Social Hall, Friday Afternoon, August 29, 1958**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S REMARKS READ BY HEALTH SECRETARY ELPIDIO VALENCIA DURING THE APPRECIATION TEA GIVEN BY PRESIDENT AND MRS. GARCIA IN HONOR, OF OUTSTANDING FUND CAMPAIGN VOLUNTEERS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RED CROSS AT THE MALACAÑANG SOCIAL HALL, FRIDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 29, 1958**

MY FELLOW COUNTRYMEN, FRIENDS:

THE ROLE of civic organizations and civic-spirited citizens in the immense task of nation-building is patent and inevitable, necessary and supremely vital. The most progressive nations are those whose private citizens have assumed unto themselves willingly and generously their share of public responsibility. By assuming public responsibility and by supplementing government effort, civic organizations free the forces of government to other areas of need where such forces are required most and where they would be most effective. It has been therefore, a source of gratification for us in the public service to note the popular response which meets national endeavors of the nature of the Philippine National Red Cross. For as long as individuals acknowledge their responsibilities to the community by actively participating in the work of community agencies, for that long shall our aspirations for the edifying factors in life be sustained, so long shall our dream of well-being for all be in sight, to inspire and challenge us on to the achievement of our goals for ourselves and future generations for all time.

My friends, ladies and gentlemen: by your clear understanding and deep appreciation of the needs of our country and its people, you gave of yourselves freely and generously to further the objectives of one organization dedicated to the welfare of mankind. By this understanding and by this appreciation, you contributed immensely to enable this organization to carry out its responsibilities to the less fortunate among us. We are gathered here to acknowledge publicly and publicly demonstrate recognition of this sacrifice and this dedication.

Out of our inadequacy to perfect true rewards for true services, we have fashioned humble tokens of our gratitude which we humbly confer upon you today. These are nothing more than tokens of what we could not possibly create, to match the greatness, of your dedication. But we are certain that the reward that are due you are already in your hearts, and we could not possibly add to them any further.

As honorary president of the Philippine National Red Cross, it is my privilege to confer upon the outstanding volunteers of the annual Red Cross fund campaign the awards which they so richly deserve. I thank you.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Speech of President Garcia delivered Sunday Morning August 31, 1958 at the Hall of Flags, Department of Foreign Affairs, welcoming the remains of Jose Ma. Panganiban**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH DELIVERED SUNDAY MORNING AUGUST 31, 1958 AT THE HALL OF FLAGS, DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WELCOMING THE REMAINS OF JOSE MA. PANGANIBAN**

IN THE NAME of our government and people, I welcome back to the Philippines the remains of Jose Ma. Panganiban.

In committing him to the bosom of the soil whence he sprang, he is at last at home with his own people whose cause he served with the great Filipino propagandists at Barcelona, Spain, seventy years ago.

It is a beautiful custom and an obligation to history to bring home the remains of great Filipinos wherever in the world they have died in order that our children and their posterity can commune with their ideas and works at a closer range and feel the breath of their immortality in the warmth of our own soil under our benign skies.

It is indeed a happy coincidence that the official reception of the remains of this compatriot occurs on this day, August 31, which is the birthday anniversary of my great predecessor, President Magsaysay, who, if he were here today, should have been the one to receive these remains in my stead.

When in his twenties Panganiban went to Spain to further his medical studies and identify himself with the Great Propaganda Movement, which was already graced by the famous names of Jose Rizal, Lopez Jaena, Marcelo del Pilar, and Mariano Ponce, this young Bicolano showed a maturity and sense of responsibility beyond his year—an indication indeed of the measure of his future stature if he had lived out his full life.

From his biography we must abstract out an important fact that he began writing seriously at the age of 15 and through his 27th year when he died. Throughout his writings that had come down to us we note a precocity definitely oriented, toward love of country. This was very unusual because "love of country at that time was dangerous heresy, and young men of lesser breed would rather toy with, safer ideas.

It should be re-emphasized in these brief remarks that the Great Propaganda Movement from 1882 to 1892—ten crucial years that exposed naked an exploitive empire— was a period of our colonial history when Filipino nationalism had its first and strong manifestations, and it was of such dimension that it gripped the whole nation and loosened the strangle-hold of an alien power. Thus the nation shook from north to south and from east to west— all because of that Great Propaganda Movement spearheaded by the youth of the land and carried on by them under heavy odds, with all the force and recklessness characteristic of young men touched with divine fire.

That it was truly national in scope is easy to demonstrate. Thus we had Juan and Antonio Luna and Isabelo de los Reyes from the Ilocos; Jose Alejandrino, Teodoro Sandiko, Mariano Ponce, and Marcelo del Pilar from Central Luzon; Jose Rizal, Baldomero Roxas and others from Southern Luzon; Tomas Arejola and Jose Ma. Panganiban from the Bicol region; Graciano Lopez Jaena and Enrique Magalona from the Visayas.

Now, what is the relevance of Jose Ma. Panganiban to the context of our time? What is the message of his young brief life?

His relevance to the Great Propaganda Movement is already indicated.

His relevance to our time is in his exemplification as a brilliant university student which the present generation of young men and women can draw inspiration from. We must stress his seriousness of purpose and his sense of responsibility at so early an age.

Why did Panganiban not merely pursue his medical studies and isolate himself from the patriotic activities of his countrymen? That would have been a safer position to take—he could have finished his medical studies, come home, and made money out of his private medical practice.

The fact that he chose the part of greatest resistance and courted danger under conditions so uncertain and in a struggle so unequal, reveals the timber of his character and the obsessive drive of his patriotism.

The young men and women of the Philippines today should note here the example of an unusual patriot with whom history has reckoned and whose ideals are worthy of emulation.

Welcome home, young intrepid spirit, and touch the kindred spirits amongst your people, and infuse into them the internal incorruptibility of character which is the crying need of our public service and free enterprise!

*Source:* **University of the Philippines College of Law Library**

**OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**

**Speech of President Garcia at the inauguration of the World Health Organization Building**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the inauguration of the World Health Organization Building**

[Delivered on September 26, 1958]

TEN YEARS AGO last May, with the echoes of the world's most destructive war still reverberating all over the globe, a new organization was born which has since achieved a success transcending all political, cultural, and social boundaries.

That body was the World Health Organization, one of mankind's eloquent testimonials to the universal desire for the betterment and the improvement of the human race. More than any quasi-political body, more than any of the so-called entangling alliances with which our globe is ridden today, the World Health Organization has proved itself to be an effective instrumentality for promoting the cause of world peace.

Because the human body is a common denominator among all peoples in all lands, because it possesses an inherent capacity for suffering that is not differentiated by race, creed, or nationality, the World Health Organization has achieved that rare universality which gives promise of a longevity that may not be the lot of other global groups. And for having been invited to become a member of this august organization, the Philippines continues to be grateful.

Today, as we proceed with the inauguration of this new building, this eloquent symbol of our desire and our wish to participate actively in all efforts and activities for the benefit of mankind, I am gratified beyond measure to note that our membership in the World Health Organization has been producing, and continues to produce, outstanding results.

Ten years of close collaboration with medical progress, as exemplified by the World Health Organization's signal leadership, have produced salutary effects in the lives and in the health of our people. The evidence is everywhere for us to see. But, because good health is something most of us take in stride, we rarely appreciate it until it is no longer ours.

The great scourges of our country, like tuberculosis, are now on the decline. Effective control and preventive measures have reduced to the minimum epidemics.

Malaria is almost exterminated. The mass communicable diseases, which only a few decades ago held our people in mortal terror, have been vanquished.

In the overall tally, our people have become healthier, taller, heavier, more resistant to disease and more aware of the same health habits which are so necessary in the tremendous job of nation-building. The importance of this can never be underestimated.

You and I know that before a nation can engage in productive work, before it can even start to blueprint plans for the advancement of its people, it must have healthy men and women to form the nucleus of its efforts.



That we have such a constantly growing nucleus today is perhaps one of the greatest blessings that this country could ever have. It is a natural wealth more precious than even material riches. Without health, without the vigor and vitality to push forward the ambitious undertakings that we have planned for ourselves and our people, our work would be meaningless.

The signal achievements in the field of health that this country has made are due, not only to the great vigor of our people and of our government, but to the World-Health Organization as well. As a coordinating and assisting agency in international health work, the WHO has ignited the spark that led to the effective development of national health planning and action. That vital spark lit the flame which has now illumined our country.

And in our gratitude for this invaluable help, we are trying our utmost to keep abreast of all the world developments which may one day have a bearing on the lives and the existence of people everywhere.

Let me mention just one:

The world health situation is posing a problem to economists and demographers alike. Declining death rates and lengthening of the average life span have combined with a continuing and an increasing birth rate to bring about an enormous increase in world population.

This naturally means more people to feed, to clothe, and to shelter. The disequilibrium in population and economic resources becomes even greater in countries that are less developed. A balance must be struck which will ensure a decent living for everyone and preserve world peace.

In this age of the atom and of space travel, man can find the answer to his pressing elementary needs in science and technology. There is need for a continuing search which will keep mankind not only alive but living well.

Dr. Milton Eisenhower of the Johns Hopkins University, speaking on behalf of the President of the United States before your Health Assembly at Minneapolis in May this year, underlined the importance and the value of research. The most tangible concern which he gave to it was the voluntary offer by the United States Government of an initial amount of money for spurring research under the auspices of the World Health Organization.

The United Nations and its specialized agencies are proving to be effective instruments in international efforts at collaborative activities in various fields. I understand that the World Health Organization, one of the specialized agencies of the United Nations, has 88 Member States. It is perhaps the one specialized agency that has the most number of members. One is heartened to know that at least in the health field, peoples everywhere seem to unite readily and cohesively in the pursuit of a common universal purpose.

In our region in the Western Pacific, the Philippines is strongly committed in its adherence to the Organization. This building which we are about to open formally is our modest contribution to the cause of the health of the peoples within the region. I am extremely gratified to know that aside from the amount set aside by the Organization as its contribution to the construction of this building, the countries within the region have given separate individual contributions which will permit the construction of an additional floor.

I wish to make particular mention of the inscription in the plaque which is exhibited in the Office Building that we are now inaugurating and which reads as follows:

“This building is dedicated to the principle declared in the Constitution of the World Health Organization that the ‘health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security and is dependent upon the fullest cooperation of individuals and states.’ Its creation has been made possible by the generosity of the World Health Organization, notably those of the Western Pacific Region.”

Again on behalf of the Government of the Philippines, I welcome you cordially. I am informed that in the course of your session, or after it, you will be observing some of our health activities and centers. I hope that you will find in

them something which could be useful in your own countries, that you will give them, in turn, the benefit of your suggestion and advice.

I take much pleasure now in opening this new building and in welcoming you all to your ninth session.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1958). Speech of President Garcia at the inauguration of the World Health Organization building, on Friday, Sept. 26, 1958. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 54(26), 6582-6584.

## **Speech of President Garcia at the Philippine Medical Association Grand Ball**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the Philippine Association Grand Ball**

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, September 28, 1958]

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

ONE of the priceless blessings of democracy is that it makes provisions for the free and voluntary participation of private citizens in public affairs. An outstanding example is the nationwide observance of Medicine Week, which reaches its climax today. As you very well know, the observance of Medicine Week in the Philippines was initiated by the Philippine Medical Association a few years ago and has now become a tradition.

In the observance of Medicine Week, the government has generously lent its support and approval, but the major portion of the work has been achieved under the leadership and with the active participation of the Philippine Medical Association and the various medical and allied societies.

In the name of the Republic, therefore, I wish to express our sincere appreciation of the dynamic leadership of the medical societies in the observance of Medicine Week. It is such support from private citizens and organizations that contributes immensely to the strength of our democracy.

Last Thursday noon, at a regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Manila, our new Secretary of Health, Dr. Valencia, made a masterful analysis of the major health problems confronting the Philippines today and made public a revitalized program which the Department of Health proposes to undertake, as well as certain suggestions requiring action on the part of other government agencies.

In his analysis, Secretary Valencia stated that our main health problems lie in three areas; namely, sanitation, disease control, and nutrition.

On this occasion, I wish to make public my wholehearted support of the revitalized program proposed by the Department of Health. It is my hope that said program will get underway immediately. The Office of the President is duly prepared to extend whatever assistance may be necessary to get this program into high gear.

The revitalization program proposed by Secretary Valencia, therefore, may be considered as the basic health program of this Administration. Briefly, it involves the adoption and strict enforcement of improved policies governing Department of Health operations, the strengthening of our health department to expedite services to the people, the widening of the program of service of the department at all levels, the raising of the standards of efficiency through the minimizing of politics and through intensified training programs, the expansion of health facilities through the construction of additional hospitals, pavilions, and laboratories, and the streamlining of the methods and procedures prescribed in all departments of the Department of Health aimed at the reduction of red tape. The Office of the President gives official approval to this basic outline of revitalized health program for the government, and I am confident that with the implementation of these commendable plans, we shall be able to achieve a higher standard of health for our people.

But, as all of us realize, responsibility for health lies not only in the hands of the Department of Health. It also involves action on the part of other government agencies and the people.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1958). Speech of President Garcia at the Philippine Medical Association Grand Ball at the Manila Hotel, September 28, 1958, at 8:30 p.m. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 54(26), 6584-6585.

**Statement: President Garcia on the death of Pope Pius XII**

**Statement of President Carlos P. Garcia:**  
On the death of Pope Pius XII

[Released on October 9, 1958]

JOIN the rest of the Catholic world in grief and sorrow at the passing of our Holy Father, Pope Pius XII. His brilliant career as head of the Roman Catholic Church since March 12, 1939, has earned for him the fitting name of "The Pope of Peace." True to the legend on his coat of arms—*opus justitia pax* (peace is the work of Justice), he proved to be the stabilizing factor in the numerous crisis which rocked the world since his elevation to St. Peter's throne. His greatest dedication was in the promotion of Catholic Action "as well as in the promotion of peace between nations in the condemnation of atheistic and pagan totalitarianism."

I request the people of the Philippines to join me in offering prayers for the repose of the soul of this, great and saintly leader of the Catholic world.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1958). The President's statement on Pope Pius XII death, October 9, 1958. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 54(27), 6721.

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia before the opening of the Second Labor Management Conference**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
Before the opening of the Second Labor Management Conference**

[Delivered at the University of the East, October 16, 1958]

THE challenge of unemployment is the most pressing problem that our national economy faces today. You have done well to make it the central theme of your conference. On your success may depend the solution to our current dilemma—how to create more jobs for our countrymen, and increase and diversify production, within the framework of our free institutions.

Through this congress, you, the leading representatives of labor and management, have shown a commendable sense of social responsibility. You have risen above the immediate interests of your respective sectors in order to face a question of national import. If for this alone your congress deserves to succeed.

The task you have set yourselves is aptly expressed in the theme, “Joint Action against Unemployment.” This you will not deny, is a difficult task, but also a noble one. Its very scope and magnitude bespeaks your seriousness of purpose. In the face of the problems confronting us anything else would have seemed trivial by comparison.

How, indeed, may employers and workers discover and adopt effective means of cooperation to help create more job opportunities? Essentially the question involves the potentialities of private effort in building up a stronger, more viable economy. But inescapably, you will also be drawn, I believe, into discussions of the relative merits of existing government policies or programs in the economic and social fields.

I should be the last to claim that any existing policy is infallible or sacrosanct. Certain principles, such as freedom and human dignity, I hold to be in the constant. They define for us the framework, the limits of action. But within that framework and in the light of the variables that govern our national life, we must be flexible without being lax, receptive to new ideas but not capricious.

I invite you of this congress—delegates both of labor and of management—to offer constructive guidance to your government as best as you might. We on our part pledge complete open-mindedness on the decisions you may approve here.

Still the main practical value of your deliberations will depend on how well you find means of fully and earnestly translating the theme of your conference into terms of increasing levels of production, from day to day, from year to year. This we all know: the only reasonable and permanent solution to mass unemployment in a country like ours is increased productive capacity.

Production is the heart of the matter. Other things count, and some may be deeply important, but compared with this central fact they are peripheral.

I realize, of course, the danger of over-simplifying a problem of such vast ramifications. But I am sure you will agree with me that the core, the kernel as it were, of the problem is none other than what I have stated.

The simple fact is that our rate of economic development has caught up with the accelerated pace of population growth. Since 1571 our population has multiplied nearly forty times and has trebled in the past half century alone. Yet, in not a few places in our country, the methods of land cultivation have hardly changed since in four centuries, in spite of the fact that a vastly expanded population clamors for the satisfaction of its daily wants and longs for its share of the good life. The "revolution of rising expectations," as it has been called, demands the fulfillment of both these needs.

Let us see how we measure up to this challenge thus far. Our productivity is nothing to boast of. Most Asian countries—according to surveys of the United Nations—harvest more rice out of every hectare than we do. Our per capita income may be higher than that of most countries in Asia, but this is not fully reflected in the living standards of the masses, for wealth in our country is still very unevenly distributed. Progress is illusory unless it is based solidly on genuine economic development.

In turn economic development means increasing ability to produce most of the needed commodities through the effective utilization of a nation's resources—both material and human.

Full and effective utilization of the available resources is synonymous to economic development.

And now for some contrasts: Why is the West prosperous and why are most of the so-called under-developed nations poor? Why does the Western worker get a much higher wage—often up to a hundred fold that, say, the Filipino worker? How does it happen that food is abundant and cheap in America where only 12.5 per cent of the economically active population is in agriculture; or in Australia, 18 per cent; and in Switzerland, 18 per cent? The answer is obvious. The difference lies in productivity. Stated in another way, this means that the developed nations get the most out of existing resources—their natural wealth in terms of land, mines, forests, and waterways, and equally important, their manpower resources.

How then is effective utilization and high productivity made possible? What are the tools and methods required? Again, the answer is obvious: the application of science and technology to socio-economic problems—in short, industrialization of the economy.

But that is not all. The development of a modern outlook is also required. I mean by this an intellectual attitude capable of sustaining purposeful and efficient effort, a desire to achieve that makes man shape his environment according to his own needs, rather than allow his environment to determine his future for him. This is the mark of modern man—whether of the West or of the East.

It involves the development of a high degree of self-reliance—not only individual but also national self-reliance.

Am I perhaps putting too much emphasis on intangibles? I do not think so. I believe that such qualities as national purposefulness and self-reliance are just as vital intangible capital for economic development and for raising living standards as money capital. We keenly realize this in the case of an alien minority who have gained notable success in the economic field by the exercise of such intangible qualities.

We cannot escape the truth that the human being—his character and energy potential—is, when all is said, still and all, the source of progress.

Our policy then—the policy of this government that has evolved more and more distinctly since 1954—is to achieve industrialization, and, to go one step further, modernization of Philippine economy and society. In short, the shaping of our economy according to our own best interests.

We have taken positive steps to encourage and assist private industry to the extent that the percentage increases in our gross national product in the past several years are considered little short of phenomenal for an underdeveloped country. We have given fresh emphasis to the development of our scientific and technological resources. We have made, and continue to make, increased national production the touchstone of our economic and social policy.

But obviously the government cannot risk further direct participation in our economic life without impairing the freedom of private enterprise. By the standards of the developing countries, such as India, Indonesia, and Burma, the public sector of our economy is small indeed. These other countries consciously have taken the so-called socialist path of development. Their governments not only assume responsibility for economic development but also require effective authority to exercise or to fulfill that responsibility. In our case, we have elected to conduct our development efforts along the lines of a private enterprise system.

So far we have no reason to think or feel that our choice has not been made wisely. Our rate of economic development over the past decade can stand comparison with that of any similarly placed country.

Just the same the system of private enterprise in the Philippines as the mainstay of our economic development program is, to be frank, on trial. Will it prove capable of undertaking the major share in modernizing the economy, providing adequate employment and generating increased wellbeing for all?

To ask this question is not unfair to private enterprise.

On the other hand, it is a challenge to the capacity of free labor and free management to carry out their common responsibility to the nation.

I share the view that prolonged inability on the part of private enterprise to demonstrate an effective capacity to create a viable economy will increase the already unbearable pressures for government intervention in economic development. If necessity warrants, the government should be in a position to enlarge the public sector and become more active than ever before in the economic field.

Let free labor and free management in the Philippines, who constitute this second National Labor-Management Congress, therefore, stand up to this challenge that is before them. It is a test worthy of our best minds.

Gentlemen, I wish you success in your endeavor. May your deliberations be as fruitful as your purpose is unselfish.

**Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1958). President Garcia's speech delivered Thursday morning, October 16, 1958, before the opening of the Second Labor Management Conference at the University of the East. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 54(29), 7042-7045.



**Speech of President Garcia at the inauguration of the Convalescent Home and Administrative Building of the Philippine Board of Mercy in Quezon City, October 18, 1958**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the inauguration of the Convalescent Home and Administrative Building of the Philippine Board of Mercy**

[Delivered in Quezon City, October 18, 1958]

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

NATIONS usually mark their progress by various achievements in the realm of government, industry, and culture. But one of the most striking evidences of a nation's progress lies in the achievements of private institutions and individuals who have voluntarily assumed their share of public responsibility, willingly and generously.

This ceremony we are witnessing now does honor to such a group of citizens whose selflessness is manifest in their collective concern and unceasing solicitude for the unfortunates of our country. However, it is only a small tribute as compared with the gratitude of the several hundreds of formerly handicapped persons who are living normal lives today, thanks to the efforts of this group, the Philippine Band of Mercy.

There are indeed, several hundreds of these rehabilitated today who have found new happiness and new hope because this organization of volunteers plucked them from the shadows which had concealed their deformity and brought them back into the light. In silence, their unvoiced applause quickens the pulse of this gathering.

My friends, I join this silent applause in recognition of the work of these civic-spirited men and women, and I pay homage to a great man whose vision it was that started this national humanitarian work.

This is Irving "Daddy" Hart, American by birth, Filipino at heart. His almost single-handed efforts in founding this civic organization some 15 years ago at his residence in Sampaloc, Manila, are a testament to man's unbounded love for his fellow men.

"Daddy" Hart captured the imagination, sympathy, and cooperation of other individuals. Today his friends and supporters have already grown by the thousands.

Volunteer medical specialists offered their services gratis. Prominent social workers willingly gave up part of their time to assume a materially unrewarding responsibility. Many hospitals offered their facilities free of charge to patients, and inter-island steamship companies and national airlines afforded free transportation to the indigent handicapped persons.

Such volunteer services, and donations in kind, have enabled the Philippine Band of Mercy to function effectively in spite of the very small number of paid personnel in its office.

Today, the directors have announced that a Convalescent Home, the construction of which was made possible by the donations of the people of Manila, is ready for occupancy. In addition, more provincial chapters of the organization will be formed as soon as funds are available.

It is encouraging to note that this organization intends to pursue its humanitarian work to embrace the entire country in the not too distant future. The response of our civic-spirited citizens to this worthy cause cannot but be praised too highly.

I enjoin those of our fellow citizens who have not already done so, to give their wholehearted and unstinted support to this worthy project of the Philippine Band of Mercy.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C.P. (1958). Speech of President Garcia at the inauguration of the Convalescent Home and Administrative Building of the Philippine Board of Mercy. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 54(29), 7045-7046.

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Full text of the speech of President Garcia at the 100th anniversary observance of Squibb and Sons**

**Full text of the speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the 100th anniversary observance of Squibb and Sons**

[Read by Foreign Secretary Felixberto Serrano at the Manila Hotel, October 23, 1958]

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I AM exceedingly happy to participate in today's celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the founding of Squibb and Sons, truly a great milestone in the field of drug manufacturing medicine and pharmacology. It is my understanding also that today's celebrations honor the monumental contributions of its great founder, Dr. E. R. Squibb. On both occasions I am privileged to share, for and in behalf of the Philippine Government, in the retrospection and rededication of their complementing significance for us here in the Philippines.

In the lives of people and their institutions, there are occasions which lend themselves exceptionally well for stock-taking, for review, for a penetrating glance backwards at the road that has been passed and the road that is still to come.

These occasions are marked with ceremony, with all the trappings, pomp, and finery that we have grown accustomed to witness. And in the pageant of afterglows that parades the celebrants, glowing tribute is paid to the builders and the planners whose vision and foresight made possible the realization of the dream.

You and I are well acquainted with the celebrations of which I speak. You and I have been members, if not participants, of these diverse occasions long enough to realize that in only a very small area can we truly find the man whose record of achievements, whose trail-blazing endeavors in pursuit of the universal goal to improve the lot of human-kind, give every promise of surviving the relentless onslaughts of time. Of his death in the last months of the nineteenth century, the biographer of Dr. Edward Robinson Squibb wrote that with Squibb and the century there died a way of life, a philosophy, a trend. This statement is probably not quite or completely correct. Certain of the philosophies which influenced the founding of the House of Squibb in 1858 remain to this day the standard traditions of the House that have maintained the high regard, respect, and reliance of the medical and allied professions. Foremost of these philosophies is the uniformity and purity of pharmaceuticals. Out of this magnificent obsession, the House of Squibb was built and stood solid and firm in reliability through its 100 years of expansion and progress,

I heartily congratulate E. R. Squibb and Sons on its 100th anniversary. Originally conceived on a humanitarian objective that imbues men in the medical and allied professions to which its founder belongs, it has outgrown its shell to assume a leading role in the lives of people and of nations. In this growth it has doggedly adhered to its very close partnership with the medical and allied professions as it discharged its role in the drug industry through research projects to discover new drugs and to improve existing ones, through strict quality control system to maintain standards, and through wide distribution at prices within the reach of the masses. While its primary dedication is in improving the health of the people to which it has been giving outstanding contribution, it has at the same time contributed no little measure in enhancing the national economy.

Squibb-Philippines is a success story in its own right. In just a period of one decade, it grew up from an agency with an annual sales of ₱40,000.00 to a modern plant with a volume of close to ₱10,000,000.00 annually, giving employment to pharmacists, physicians, dentists, chemists, lawyers, veterinarians, accountants, and others of which,

I am informed, there are 260. To a certain extent, Squibb Philippines is contributing to the strengthening of economic conditions in the country. It is helping in the conservation of dollars which otherwise would be utilized in the importation of finished products. It bolsters the economy of the nation in the veterinary line that it introduced to reduce mortality in the livestock population and to promote their growth and multiplication.

Figures and volumes are impressive gauge of success from a business aspect. Squibb Philippines' success story has other impressive measurements in the benefits that its operations has engendered in the community. In times of disasters and epidemics it have given its just share in the protection of the health of the public in partnership with the medical and allied professions. In normal times it gives whole-hearted support of charitable work of government and private entities. One of the outstanding services which Squibbs Philippines has recently instituted—the Squibb Clinical Seminar—would in effect bring post-graduate training in medicine to the doorsteps of rural doctors which would elevate standards of rural medical practice. This service would bring about incalculable benefits to the health and medical care of the rural population.

The Government has disinterested regard to the drug industry because it is aware of its vital role to the health and economy of the nation. This concern is exercised in practical measure by relating the needs of the drug industry proportionately to the total national needs that will ensure and promote a progressive and balanced national economy. To this extent, the drug industry will be given protection and encouragement. I feel, however, that I must emphasize the importance which I attach to the extreme necessity of exploiting and utilizing local raw materials to feed the drug industry. This concern does not stem from a nationalistic consideration alone. It is one of the cardinal essence of a sustaining and stable economy. Its additional significance lies in the fact that in the eventuality of being cut away from foreign sources, the country can stand on its own in meeting its needs for drugs and pharmaceuticals.

Research has always been an integral function of drug companies. Understandably, manufacturing and sale receive much of the investments. In an economy where competition is increasingly becoming stiff, survival can very well depend on the products of research. Squibb has not lagged being in pioneering research to discover new drugs. Together with the other drug companies in the country, it shall be afforded ample opportunity to undertake studies and investigations of local materials that have medicinal use and to put them out in a commercial scale. In this respect drug companies will be rendering a great service to the nation and, at the same time, expect a profit on their investments.

Dr. Edward Robinson Squibb was a Quaker and was possessed of those sterling characters that are scarcely existent in our time and in this generation. One of the sterling qualities which he had was his refusal to patent his inventions and discoveries because he wanted them to be of service to humanity.

But the larger heritage and possibly the mere enduring gift that Edward Robinson Squibb left, cannot be reflected in terms of physical and material objects. The great gift he left was the example of honest toil, his high moral standards, and his unwavering belief that before a man can help himself he must try first to help his brother. When he died in 1900, the Committee on Revision of the U. S. Pharmacopeia stated: "Pharmacy has lost a Nestor; medicine, a leader; and the world, the noblest work of God—an honest man."

I am confident that all this heritage of the good Doctor and his pioneering organization which now has become part of the founding charter of Squibb Philippines will continue to add to the progress of our country by stimulating the growth and development of our pharmaceutical industry, making full use of the bountiful yet relatively still unbroken reservoir of our own medicinal plants and herbs and, also, our technologists and scientists—thus giving vigor, vitality, and serve to our people and our economy.

**Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1958). Full text of the speech of President Garcia at the 100th Anniversary Observance of Squibb And Sons. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 54(30), 7217-7219.

**Speech of President Garcia at the presentation ceremonies of International Achievement Awards**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the presentation ceremonies of International Achievement Awards under the auspices of the Public  
Relations Society of the Philippines and the American Public Relations Association**

[Delivered at the Malacañang Social Hall, October 25, 1958]

MR. TOASTMASTER,

GENTLEMEN OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS PROFESSION,

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, AND FRIENDS:

IT IS with deep humility that I am accepting these two awards—an impressive scroll from the American Public Relations Association and a beautiful plaque from the Public Relations Society of the Philippines. At the outset I must say that whatever public relations success has been achieved in relation to my State visit to the United States has been due in considerable measure to the generosity of the business organizations that played a big significant role in helping create a favorable atmosphere for the American tour.

While I am grateful to the American for giving us the facilities to make the trip a success, the assistance of private business in creating an impact on the American public cannot be underestimated. I want to make public acknowledgment of the invaluable help of the Philippine Association and its members and the unselfish cooperation of such vast organizations as Stanvac and Caltex, International Harvester and the United States Industries, and the Motion Pictures Association of America, to mention only a few. The top executives of these companies not only placed their public relations machinery at the service of the Philippines, but in some cases went out of their way to get favorable publicity for our country.

I am happy to see the representatives of many business organizations that gave us a helping hand among this distinguished crowd and I want to take this opportunity to reiterate my gratitude to them.

In reminiscing over my American visit, it can now be told that my highest objective was to present to the great American people an honest and candid picture of the Philippines and her problems, political and economic, and her legitimate aspirations that we may be better understood by the American people. I am happy now to know that I have fairly succeeded in achieving this goal. There is now definitely a better understanding between our two peoples. The government circles in Washington, the American business groups, and the American press and radio have made this possible.

On the theory that business organizations with interests in the Philippines and the Administration had a common cause in assuring the success of the trip, business groups were made priority target. Contacts were made simultaneously in Manila, Washington, and New York with leaders to acquaint them with the importance of the trip and the possible consequences of failure. It was not difficult to get the cooperation of the business groups because it was obvious to them that the success of the American tour would give this administration the strength and inspiration to solve our economic problems. Businessmen, after all, are business-minded. They realized that their own business would thrive and prosper only under favorable conditions and they were convinced that the American trip offered an opportunity towards finding a solution to our growing economic problems.

Through existing organizations, principally the Philippine Association, contacts with various media of public relations were established and expanded. Of course, our advance team exploited other contacts and did not overlook the other two targets; namely, the Washington circles and the American press. But in many instances, the job of

explaining, the Philippine picture and position became invariably easier once it became known that American business was interested in making the trip a success.

We will not attempt to picture the vastness and intricacy of the preparatory work that had to be done in connection with the State visit. But most of you know that for the Philippine the situation was rather difficult because of a rash of unfavorable publicity that seemed to be timed to sabotage the visit. It was in a way fortunate that many of the top public relations men of some of America's biggest business enterprises worked hand-in-glove with our advance team that operated under the Philippine embassy in Washington. Through these American PR men, others in the profession understood the problems involved and consequently appreciated the full meaning of the trip's success. The PRA award was probably the result of this appreciation of the many difficulties.

The success of the American tour from a public relations viewpoint shows what can be done through close cooperation between government and business. At a point when the Philippine picture was beginning to look unhealthy to the American mind, business came to the assistance of the Administration and, with the further help of many friends in the United States, the dimming picture of this country was corrected.

Let us transfer the problem to the home front where we are today faced with major economic problems. I am aware that in business circles today there is considerable chafing and irritation, there is impatience and a growing feeling of uncertainty, there is pessimism. It is time we realize, however, that the problems we face which are causing this uneasiness cannot be solved by the government alone. And if business becomes indifferent now, just because results of continuing efforts to solve our problems are not immediate, if business stampede in confusion instead of remaining a stabilizing factor, where will our country be?

If on the American front government and business had found a common ground on which to stand, why should we not be able to find a similar position here today where the problems are more pressing and immediate?

The problems we face are common to the government and to business. The success we seek is common and commonly beneficial. There should be no line to split and divide government and business. There is no issue of partisanship here, no issue of politics—there should be none!

The vast business organizations that control the economic life of the country owe it to themselves to keep the government stable and secure, for it is obvious that any sign of insecurity would swiftly affect and even ruin business itself.

In the face of international uncertainties, with the weight of economic problems upon us, the need for the time is for faith-inspired business statesmanship. Our way of life, our system of government, makes it imperative for government and business to work together with trust and confidence undismayed by temporary reverses. The trouble with some business sometimes is that it becomes too grasping; in its fight for existence it often places the profit motive over and above public welfare. It is because of such an attitude that the government is compelled to crack down on business. This is no blanket accusation of business, for we have great institutions here that have demonstrated their capacity to sacrifice for the public good. But this country can certainly do more with more business statesmanship.

Perhaps, our public relations men should take it upon themselves to promote better understanding between government and business so that instead of carping criticism one way or the other, there would result a harmonious hammering of policies and practices that would redound to their common good and the country's welfare.

Thank you again for your generosity in giving me these two awards.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1958). Speech of President Garcia at the Presentation Ceremonies of International Achievement Awards under the auspices of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines and the American Public Relations Association. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 54(30), 7220-7222.

**Speech of President Garcia at the testimonial parade and review given in His Honor by the Armed Forces of the Philippines**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the testimonial parade and review given in His Honor by the Armed Forces of the Philippines**

[Delivered at Camp Murphy, Quezon City on November 4, 1958]

SENATE PRESIDENT LOPEZ, SPEAKER ROMUALDEZ, EXCELLENCIES, SECRETARY VARGAS, GENERAL ARELLANO, MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES:

THE BEST birthday gift I received today is this impressive manifestation of your loyalty. I accept it in the name of our people, and with pride.

The profession of soldiery is the noblest of public service in a free society. It requires the highest form of dedication and sacrifice from those who have chosen to wear the uniform. The fighting man is entrusted with the sacred duty of national security. To him we look up for the preservation of our way of life. This is a tremendous responsibility.

It is imperative therefore that the Armed Forces must have the people's trust and confidence. Happily, the history of our Armed Forces testify eloquently to the fact that the Filipino soldier has never failed his country and his people; that in the bitterest crisis he has come out with flying colors. Wherever duty called him, the Filipino soldier kept faith with his people. He never, for a moment, forget that he owed it to his people to give the best in him because they were looking up to him for deliverance and protection. The Armed Forces of the Philippines has met the continuing challenge of keeping the people's faith with unwavering devotion. I have no doubt that our soldier will continue to keep this faith.

As Commander-in-Chief, I wish to assure our people that our Armed Forces will forever keep faith with them; that they will never betray the trust which you have reposed in them. I am certain that the Armed Forces will continue to remain the defender of the weak, our bulwark against oppression, and the custodian of our hard won liberties. There is no doubt about the loyalty of these men to our country.

The need of the hour is for unity and solidarity. We cannot afford to allow divisive forces to rend out people asunder. I call upon the Armed Forces, I call upon our people, to work hand in hand to strengthen our country so that we can remain a solid fortress against oppression. There is no crisis so great that we cannot face with calmness and courage if we are all pulling together. Soldiers of the Philippines, I am deeply touched by this mass display of manhood and loyalty. I am personally witness to the fact that you have written your name in letters of undying glory in many battlefields in the Philippines and in foreign lands. Your people are proud of you. I am certain that you will remain true to the ideals which you, and those before you, fought for. I wish to assure you of my own faith and confidence in you and in your leaders, and in your ability to carry out any mission assigned to you by our people.

The times demand the best in all of us. We must not falter. We cannot afford to waver. I call upon you to harden your muscles, strengthen your will, and above all discipline your heart and mind.

My men, God bless you all!

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1958). Speech of President Garcia at the testimonial parade and review given in His Honor by the Armed Forces of the Philippines. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 54(31), 7391-7392.





**Statement: President Garcia at his regular weekly press conference**

**Statement of President Carlos P. Garcia:  
At his regular weekly press conference**

[Issued at Malacañang, November 14, 1958]

THE Department of Foreign Affairs has been entrusted with the task of dealing with the Indonesian government through its Embassy on the question arising from the application for political asylum of Alfredo B. Saulo, number three man in the outlawed Communist Party in the Philippines. It is my ardent hope that the issue will be settled in an atmosphere of peace and mutual respect, with dispatch and to the satisfaction of both governments.

While the Filipino people and government stand squarely against the communist ideology, I disapprove of the use of violence against an Embassy of a friendly country who may happen to be requested to extend the mantle of asylum to any Filipino communist.

I appeal to Filipinos in all walks of life and irrespective of political creed and color that, if they must express their sentiment on the matter, only the most peaceful procedures consistent with our democratic processes should be adopted.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1958). Statement: President Garcia at his regular weekly press conference. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 54(33), 7723.

**Speech of President Garcia at the formal opening ceremonies of the “Atoms-for-Peace” Exhibits**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the Formal opening ceremonies of the “Atoms-for-Peace” Exhibits**

[Delivered at the Institute of Science Building, November 25, 1958]

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I LOOK upon this privilege of opening the Atom-for-Peace exhibits as a distinct honor for which I thank the officials of the National Science Development Board and the Philippine Atomic Energy Commission.

I recollect that some two months ago, on this very same spot, it was my privilege to deliver an address on the occasion of the opening of the UNESCO exhibit on energy and its various transformations. In that exhibit the emphasis was placed on the more conventional sources of energy.

This evening it is once more my privilege to open another exhibit on energy, this time exclusively on one kind—a new form of force unequalled perhaps by any other in the tremendous impact it has wrought on humanity’s political, social, and economic thought.

It is rather unfortunate that atomic energy made its bow to the world in the form of an awesome military weapon, for the average layman could not thereafter think of this new force without conjuring the spectacle of a holocaust of death and destruction. The peaceful potentials of this form of energy paled before the dark spectre of its fearful capacity to destroy.

And yet the years following the dawn of the atomic era saw rapid progress in technological development for the utilization of atomic energy in man’s peaceful pursuits. These were advancements for the welfare of humanity—less attended with drama but of equal if not greater significance to man.

It is a paradox of each advance in knowledge—illustrated in its ultimate sense by atomic power—that what can destroy can also build, and that it remains only for man to choose to what end he shall direct the fruits of his creative genius.

Thus, man learned how to split the atom. Out of this knowledge he spawned the nuclear bomb and its implications of total destruction and death.

Yet out of that very same knowledge has come hope—hope in the form of a new source of power to replenish our dwindling fuels, new methods of treatment for man’s ancient diseases, better breeds of plants and animals to feed the hungry, new techniques for our industries, new knowledge to help cloth, shelter, and satisfy the wants of the world’s teeming millions.

Out of the same knowledge that rained death in Hiroshima have come answers to secrets that may someday enable man to banish misery and hunger from this earth forever.

Faced with the alternative of his own extinction or the the chance for a better world, we declare here our great faith on man’s good judgment of choosing the course that would lead to his own ultimate good. We express here our unshakeable belief that man will use nuclear power to serve, rather than annihilate, himself; that using his faculty of reason, man will, in the words of a famous writer, not only endure but prevail.

It is our belief—and prayer—that the world has made its choice and that the awesome secrets man has discovered will not be used to destroy but to build, that mutual destruction has cancelled out total war, and that the fury of the struggle between totalitarianism and freedom will more and more confine itself to gaining the allegiance of the world through means for the realization of a better life.

Thus, we witness a delirious race not only for supremacy in atomic weapons. Presently going on is a struggle for the loyalty of the uncommitted millions through technical and financial aid designed to increase food supply, lessen disease, raise production, and improve social institutions among underdeveloped countries.

And in the latter—as in the former race—science will be a foremost battleground.

The Philippines, heir to centuries-old problems of ignorance, want, and population, has, like all other countries, turned to science as one of the strongest hopes for the solution of her problems.

Independence, intensified methods of communication, the universalization of basic education, and the efforts of our government as well, have given to our people a scale of values and aspirations that are definitely higher than those of our forbears. Many of our people, inured to near-hunger, near ignorance, and disease, have realized suddenly that a better life is possible and can be theirs, ought to be theirs.

We have sought to foster those aspirations. And we have sought to help our people achieve them. We have dedicated the Administration to helping the great masses of our people realize a greater and greater portion of their dreams. In the face of a population that is growing at the phenomenal rate of 2.9 per cent every year—breeding new problems and compounding old ones—we are attempting a production and industrialization program intended to render us a little less dependent on foreign sources for staple foods and finished goods. We are pushing roads through forests, building better ones where inadequate facilities existed. We have explored the possibilities of utilizing to the fullest our mineral and agricultural resources. We have tried to accomplish, and are on the verge of producing, enough of our basic staples for the first time in several generations. We are trying to spread out among as many of our people the benefits of greater knowledge and greater awareness.

These and a thousand others, this administration is attempting—and attempting it at a pace that is both frenetic and inspired. This generation is seeking to achieve in decades what has taken other countries hundreds of years to accomplish.

And yet we realize only too vividly that these goals could never be achieved at a pace that is desired without seeking newer, faster, and more effective tools and methods than are available to us today. The old methods just will not suffice. It is in this thought that our country, as the world has done, has turned to science. Our resources are not limitless, our land grows not no matter how fast our population expands. What remains for us is to produce more food, more clothing, more crops using the same lands, the same resources that we have. We are seeking for a maximum of production from a minimum of materials—a goal only science can achieve for us.

I, therefore, take the greatest pride in the knowledge that this administration has not only realized this truth but acted upon it with dispatch. In its last session, the Congress enacted Republic Act 2067, known as the Science Act of 1958, which provides for the first time for a truly coordinated and truly national science program. The scattered and often duplicated research efforts of both public and private agencies can now be given that degree of integration that can help produce the greatest results at the lowest cost.

In amplification of the constitutional provision that the State shall foster science, Republic Act 2067 has declared it a policy of the state to “promote scientific and technological research and development, foster invention, and utilize scientific knowledge as an effective instrument for the promotion of national progress.”

In the implementation of such a policy the Government is committed, among others, to;

- (a) Stimulate and guide scientific, engineering, and technological efforts towards filling the basic and immediate needs of the people;
- (b) Survey the resources of the country and formulate a comprehensive program for the development and maximum utilization of such resources in the solution of the country's problems;
- (c) Strengthen the educational system of the country so that the same will provide a steady source of competent scientific and technological manpower; and
- (d) Promote coordination and cooperation in research in order to secure concentration of efforts, minimize duplication, and thereby achieve maximum progress.

This is the pervading reason behind the Act: That the almost limitless aids and resources which science can offer be concentrated into the solution of our problems.

As an instrument of such a policy, the Science Act created the National Science Development Board primarily as a body to set policies and coordinate programs in scientific research and development. It also set up the Philippine Atomic Energy Commission and the National Institute of Science and Technology as implementing arms for the development and pursuit of research in their respective fields of endeavor.

Our science program, therefore, will concern itself with research and development which will help improve the national economy and produce immediate results. Our first researches are designated to solve some of the many complex and urgent problems of Philippine agriculture, industry, medicine, biology, and engineering.

With particular reference to nuclear science and development, researches utilizing radioactive materials which are of immediate urgency and application will be pursued.

Thus, some of the first activities of the Philippine Atomic Energy Commission will consist of studies on the breeding of more, resistant and high-yielding rice varieties; the discovery of cures for coconut diseases, particularly cadang-cadang which has almost crippled the industry in certain areas of the country; studies on fertilizer; the absorption of sugar by plants and weed-killers; nuclear engineering processes, and physiological studies on domestic animals, utilizing in all such studies nuclear techniques and processes.

Of immediate importance as well is the establishment of the Philippine Nuclear Research Center, the core of which will be a \$500,000-reactor facility granted to the Philippines under the United States-Philippine Bilateral Agreement of July 27, 1955. Presently, negotiations are going on for the implementation of the U. -S. grant and subsequent final acquisition of the research reactor from American manufacturers. For its part, the Philippines under the Agreement is committed to provide the building and facilities to house the reactor and bear the operational costs of the reactor project. The construction of the reactor building and supporting laboratory facilities is scheduled to begin about the early part of next fiscal year.

Our long-range nuclear program will consider the technology and economics of nuclear energy with respect to our power program. The prospects of greater industrial growth in our country has often been discounted owing to our alleged lack of power resources. Nuclear power may well provide the answer to this lack.

Also in the class of future plans are the expansion of the use of radioisotopes in research on medical therapy, food preservation, especially fish and meat, control of native plant pests and diseases, and improvement in our crop plants by induced mutations and greater availability of power.

It will be noted that the Philippine nuclear program is geared to the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The Philippines—and we consider this a boon—has neither the resources nor the predilection to engage in researches on nuclear warfare.

This administration, through the Science Act of 1958, has given concrete proof of its stated intention to foster science and utilize its techniques more fully in the search for better and more effective solutions to our many economic problems. Republic Act 2067 of itself is most explicit in these intentions, and the developments during these last few months, one of which is the coming establishment of a full-pledged nuclear research center, should leave no doubt as to the course which this government has taken with regard to science.

This administration considers the evolution of new and more effective scientific processes and methods as one of the greatest hopes in the solution of our country's many problems. Consequently, we bind ourselves to give the country's science effort the measure of financial, moral, and administrative support that it deserves.

Realizing that superior scientific skill is as much subject to the play of market forces as any other commodity, this administration shall endeavor to attract the best minds to the service of our government's science program by means of substantial emoluments, grants, scholarships, awards, and promotions through merit and other incentives for dedicated service to science.

Knowing that the success of a coordinated science program hinges upon the creation and the maintenance of a core of excellent and well-trained scientists and technicians, this administration shall endeavor to foster the growth of such group through scholarship for brilliant science students, training grants abroad, and better opportunities for service in the government.

Mindful of the fact that scientific research and development can proceed only with the necessary financial support, this administration will seek to provide our scientific agencies with enough funds to pursue a creditable program of scientific research and development geared to our defined objectives.

Cognizant of the pressing needs of our economy, we shall direct our immediate program of research and development to discovering solutions to such problems as presently beset it, leaving for tomorrow the pursuit of projects of longer range and future application.

Realizing that scientific research and development can never be a monopoly of the government, we shall seek to foster cooperative efforts in research between our public agencies and private institutions. We shall also, whenever feasible, support, through financial and technical aids, worthwhile researches by qualified private scientists.

Knowing the multitude of uses to which nuclear energy can be applied and the still burgeoning growth of its areas of use, this administration will seek to expand our present nuclear research and development program so as to give the people the full benefits of its powerful and versatile force of nature.

At the start of this presidential term, we outlined to our people several goals that we would set out to achieve—God willing—during the short time given us. Nothing less than the united labors of all social, economic, and political sectors can help us accomplish them. The government can only lead, or guide, or help—it cannot accomplish everything. So much room for purposeful action is left to our private institutions and our people.

One of such goals has been increased economic growth. Within the powers granted us—and using the processes that are available to democratic governments—this government will strive to give our people a little more food, a little more vision, until we arrive at that aspiration of reasonably self-sufficient independence that has evaded us for centuries.

In seeking to attain this end, we have called, and we shall call, to the forefront the thinker, the executive, the teacher, the farmer, the industrialist, the worker—the scientist.

To the last especially, we here state that it shall be one of our primary intentions to let the scientist assume a greater and more dynamic role than that which he had before. We have provided him with the agencies within which to labor. We have given him—and hope to give him more—of the incentives and support with which to evolve from nature's unknown recesses knowledge that can help his countrymen live in greater satisfaction and dignity.

It has been given our times to witness hard challenges. But hard eras breed great dreams—and great dreams a great generation. In these troubled times, we have been courageous enough to set for ourselves the vision of emancipating, within our life time, the greater portion of our people from our heritage of want and ignorance. The goal is great and noble and the reward less than that history shall remember this generation as one that gave to its sons—through its courage, brawn, and intellect—the legacy of a richer and fuller life.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1958). Speech of President Garcia at the Formal Opening Ceremonies of the “Atoms-for-Peace” Exhibits. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 54(34), 7884-7889.

## **Speech of President Garcia at the re-union meeting of alumni of the “Big Ten”**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the re-union meeting of alumni of the “Big Ten”**

[Delivered at the Winter Garden of the Manila Hotel, November 27, 1958]

IT IS a pleasure, indeed, for me to be with you at this annual meeting of the Alumni of the universities in mid-western United States which make up the football conference known as the Big Ten. I congratulate you on having conceived the excellent idea of getting together on this day of thanksgiving every year for the purpose of renewing old friendships and of enjoying the company of your fellow-alumni and friends. The hilarity and the fun which saturated the atmosphere of this room during the last hour or so is as eloquent proof that you know how to lay aside your worries on proper occasions and to be as jovial and carefree as you were in the halcyon days of your youth. I agree with you that clean and harmless merrymaking such as this can be a healthful tonic that can relieve tensions and give zest to human living in this highly competitive age.

As I look about me and see the different groups gathered around these, festive boards, I realize at once that I am speaking before a select audience, among whom are the most valuable elements of our cosmopolitan community. Verily, we have here men and women who have found their places and made their mark in our social, cultural, scientific, or industrial life. Many of you are in the government service and, therefore, are doing your part of the government's mission of ministering to the needs of our people. Inspired by the presence of such an array of notable personalities, I shall, with your kind indulgence, take advantage of this opportunity to say a few words on the role that the alumni of the Big Ten can play in the conduct of the affairs of this country.

It is well that now and then we put our heads together and consider how this country of ours is faring and what our university graduates, individually and collectively, can do to promote its welfare and progress. This is important in a democracy like ours. Under a totalitarian regime the practice of taking common counsel with the citizens would not be of much consequence, since the direction of the country's affairs is placed in the hands of an individual or a small group of individuals. But we have expressed in clear and categorical terms our preference for democracy, both as a form of government and as a way of life. We expressed that preference in the Malolos Constitution, which stated in Article 1 that “the political association of all Filipinos constitutes a nation whose state is called the Philippine Republic.” And we reaffirmed our faith in democracy when in the preamble of our present Constitution we declared that it is our aim and desire to secure to ourselves and our posterity “the blessings of independence under a regime of justice, liberty, and democracy.” Now, as you very well know, under such a regime, “sovereignty resides in the people and all government authority emanates from them.” Therefore, the more we consult with the people, the more we take them into our confidence, and the more we allow them to share the responsibility of finding workable solutions to the manifold problems confronting the country, the more we broaden the base of democracy and the more we strengthen the foundations of our democratic institutions.

Yes, my friends, we need to address ourselves to the tremendous problems that beset our country today. Every country has its own problems, but ours have been aggravated by the fact that only a few years ago we went through a cruel and devastating war which shattered our economy, destroyed our cities, and laid waste our countrysides. Then, too, while our country was still lying prostrate and bleeding, our republic was born, creating new needs and new demands which had to be met if we were to restore peace and relative prosperity within our borders and maintain our national prestige abroad. Today we are still being faced with the problems that usually attend the birth of a new nation. Our problems are those of survival and these are by no means easy. Even the United States, the wealthiest country in the world, is feeling the pinch of an economic recession. Indeed, in the language of Thomas Paine, “these are the times that try men's souls.” But our mettle has been tested time and again in the past and we



have proven our ability to survive serious crisis which would have crushed a less courageous and less determined people. We are confident, therefore, that we shall live through these hardships, strong and vigorous as ever.

Now, just to cheer up those among us who appear to see nothing but the dark side of things, let me refer to the progress we have made during the last six decades. I need not tell you that we rose from our status as a subject people to that of an independent nation, the first to attain that status in Southeast Asia. Nor is this all, for young as she is, the Philippines has succeeded in making her voice heard in the councils of free nations, particularly in the United Nations Organization and its specialized agencies. Similar progress has been made in the health field, where such epidemics as smallpox and cholera, which used to decimate our population, have been entirely wiped out, thanks to the advance of medical science in this country and the better understanding of the rules of health and sanitation on the part of our people. And again, progress has been made in the field of education, as evidenced by the extension of educational opportunities to a greater portion of our population, the raising of our percentage of literacy, and the establishment of an increasing number of higher institutions of learning, where our young people may obtain the professional and technological training they need to prepare them for competence and leadership in their respective fields of endeavor.

And we shall continue to move forward, for progress does not operate in a closed system. The human spirit does not suffer itself to be shut up or circumscribed for long. It is in the nature of man ever to aim toward perfection or, to borrow the language of the poet, to “build more stately mansions” than the preceding ones. Every advance we make spurs us on to further advances. Now, to this desire for progress there are no visible limits. The farther we go, the wider the vistas we get and the stronger the urge to move on, to project ourselves into the future and to use our imagination in an effort to define our problems, analyze them into their factors, and finally choose the courses of action that are calculated to yield the best results.

The progress of a nation has many facets and, in order for such progress to be balanced, it should cover every aspect of our national life—agriculture, industry, communication, commerce, education, culture, and all the other aspects of national existence that give it meaning and substance. In my inaugural address last December and in my message to Congress on the state of the nation early this year I made mention of some of these aspects which in my opinion require immediate attention. It would be superfluous for me to repeat them here. Suffice it to say that this administration is pledged to work for the welfare and happiness of our people. In line with this objective, steps have been taken to improve the condition of our people not only in the urban centers but also in the rural areas. The institution of land reforms, the organization of cooperatives, the extension of credits, the harnessing of our streams in order to provide our people with electricity for lighting and for power, the establishment of rural health units, the construction of irrigation systems and as well as that of highways and feeder roads, the sinking of artesian wells, and the extension of school facilities to the remotest barrios—all of these have been motivated by the sincere and earnest desire of the administration to raise the standard of living of our people.

Now, the successful implementation of this ambitious program of the administration requires the earnest and whole-hearted cooperation of all sectors and elements of our population. It goes without saying that no enterprise, however worthy, can prosper without the cooperation of all concerned. Therefore, government and private agencies must work together in a spirit of dedication in order to accomplish our purposes. The problems that lie ahead are many and they are difficult. But they are not incapable of solution. What we need are imagination and will power—imagination to conceive and plan methods of improvement and will power to see that those plans are carried out to successful completion.

Among those who are called upon to extend the needed cooperation are the alumni who are gathered here this evening. Because of the unusual advantage you have enjoyed as students and graduates of institutions of high standing in the United States, you are in the best position to lend a helping hand in the national endeavor to improve the lot of our people. It is the duty of all Filipinos, irrespective of party affiliation, to contribute their energies to this effort. This is no time for petty bickerings and recriminations. In times of stress, Filipinos from all walks of life must close ranks and contribute their strength, their learning, and their wisdom to the attainment of our common objective of ushering in a brighter day for our country.

Ladies and gentlemen, in the great and arduous task of nation building, the need is for unity of effort. We cannot afford to dissipate our energies and our strength by working at cross-purposes. I, therefore, call upon you to join us

in the pursuit of our objective so that we may all pull together to the end that our republic which came into being after so many untold sacrifice, may live and endure until time shall be no more.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1958). Speech of President Garcia at the re-union meeting of alumni of the “Big Ten”. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 54(35), 8046-8049.

**Speech of President Garcia at the opening session of the annual convention of the Philippine Historical Association**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the opening session of the annual convention of the Philippine Historical Association**

[Delivered at the University of the East Auditorium, November 28, 1958]

PRESIDENT DALUPAN,

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION,  
DELEGATES TO THIS CONFERENCE,  
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I COMMEND the Philippine Historical Association for its initiative and energy in organizing and sponsoring this convention. In a young Republic like ours the cultural values are often unwittingly depreciated. This is perhaps due to the long-range and intangible nature of culture, as contrasted to the concrete and immediate results of other endeavors, like trade and commerce. Yet, while the immediate objectives of society are not to be minimized, the long-range objectives often prove of far greater worth to a nation. A cultural event is far and above a circus or a carnival or a killing in the stock market.

In the writing of our own history we are at a relatively early stage. The efforts of this Association, therefore, to intensify historical studies and stimulate historical writing are not only commendable but also significant. Much of what passes for Philippine history is far from authentic. This is because the authorship is either foreign, and the scholarship obscured by political or social bias, or Filipino but suffering from resentment or anger or lack of scholarship. The objective of the association of rewriting Philippine history so as to render it more accurate and truthful is therefore one worthy of the support of everyone interested in a proper assessment of our past.

The work is obviously tremendous. Not only is the writing of history a difficult science but the problems facing the Philippine historian are massive. The original Greek word for history meant research, exploration, and information. This task would be quite simple were it not for many factors that can obscure the truth. The writing of history is both objective and subjective, and a good history is one in which the two are balanced. History may soar to the level of art and philosophy, and this is to the good; but its principal purpose after all is the solid establishment of facts and the precise exposition of the facts established. In short, history is the pursuit and expression of truth.

In the writing of history, therefore, there is no room for resentment whether present or past, for prejudice of any kind for mere speculation however plausible. The true historian—the Filipinos who are to follow the brilliant line of historians from Herodotus and Thucydides to Toynbee and Churchill—must be scholars possessed of energy to dig the facts whether they are buried in manuscripts or archeological objects; of equanimity and balance to raise above resentments and prejudices; of reason and logic to interpret and explain established facts correctly and lucidly; of imagination and vision to see the past and the future clearly in relation to each other; and of absolute honesty and integrity to transmit the facts of history with faithfulness and devotion as a precious national legacy willed to an endless posterity.

I understand that this convention preludes an international historical foregathering to which will be invited delegates from Asian and Pacific countries. Your plan is logical and commendable. The mistakes and shortcomings of the present convention, if any, will afford lessons that will serve you in good stead in planning and getting out the bigger convention. Your success and your achievements now will naturally be precious capital for the international undertaking. I hope it will render substantial contributions to historical research and writing as well as to the cultural growth and mutual understanding of the nations and peoples comprehended.

The International Historical Convention envisioned by you indicates your appreciation of an orientation which Philippine history badly needs. There is a wealth of materials on our country's historical association with the West. The nearly 400 years of Spanish rule and the nearly 50 years of American tutelage are well documented. Although many of the existing historical works concerning these periods may not be of high scholarly order in the sense that they are more subjective than objective, the source materials are enormous in volume and accessible to our searchers. It is, therefore, reasonable to assume that if we have the historians gifted with the abilities and capabilities demanded by the task, the writing of historical works related to these periods is only a matter of time. It is almost inevitable that some of our historians will produce the works that will finally present and interpret the facts of the Philippine-Spanish and the Philippine-American periods.

The situation is entirely different with respect to the facts of Philippine history before the coming of Spain. In this period we need militant historians—historians who will have the energy and patience to deduce and reconstruct the facts from obscure evidences, most of which are to be discovered by the assistance of related sciences like archeology, anthropology, paleontology, and others. Part of the history of that period is undoubtedly to be found in the annals of our neighbors in the East. Not only had our ancestors had intercourse, both commercial and cultural, with other Oriental peoples but their historians have surely recorded some findings and observations concerning the Philippines which are valuable clues to our past. Your projected international historical convention is therefore valuable, at least potentially, as signaling a new interest on the part of our historians in the historical materials that may be available in our neighbors in Asia. I am certain that in this task you will have the support of all individuals and of all countries that understand the place of history in human civilization.

You may have observed that I have often urged our people to follow a logical order in their effort to attain advancement. In this connection I have offered the slogan, "First thing first." In accordance with this slogan I believe that you will do well to concentrate all your efforts to making a success of the present convention. Although it is a good idea to keep the forthcoming international convention in mind, you should, for the present, marshal all your efforts, all your energies, and all your wisdom in making this present convention a resounding success.

This is also, my sincere wish; I am in hopes that this convention being sponsored by our leading historical writers and teachers, will leave a record of enduring as well as memorable achievements. I am certain that this gathering will itself write history.

**Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1958). Speech of President Garcia at the opening session of the annual convention of the Philippine Historical Association. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 54(35), 8049-8051.

**Speech of President Garcia upon arrival in Tokyo**  
**Speech**  
**of**  
**His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia**  
**President of the Philippines**  
**Upon arrival in Tokyo**

[Delivered over TV-Radio at 6:30p.m. (5:30 Manila time), December 1, 1958]

I BRING to the people of Japan the greetings and best wishes of the people of the Philippines.

On this happy and memorable occasion I wish first of all to express my deepest appreciation for the cordial of all to express my deepest appreciation for the cordial welcome extended to me and Mrs. Garcia by their Imperial Majesties, the Emperor and Empress of Japan, and other leaders and representatives of your nation.

When His Imperial Majesty and the Prime Minister extended to me the official invitation to visit Japan, I was more than glad to accept. Pressure of official duties, however, prevented me from coming earlier or projecting a longer sojourn in your beautiful country.

I assure the Japanese people that I derive deep spiritual satisfaction to be able to reciprocate the visit to the Philippines of His Excellency Prime Minister Kishi and to undertake this mission of goodwill.

As the first Filipino president to pay an official visit to Japan, I feel at this moment something more than mere personal satisfaction. I consider your welcome for me as one more eloquent manifestation of friendship and goodwill between our two countries and peoples.

On the other hand, my visit here betokens and attests to our desire in the Philippines for better understanding with Japan whose proffers of friendship are welcome by the government and people of my country.

Japan and the Philippines have been cast by Destiny to exist close to each other—politically, economically, and culturally. Neither of us can afford to ignore this geophysical fact. As you know, the relations between the Philippines and Japan have not always been fortunate. A costly and destructive war involved the two countries not so long ago.

But Time, the great healer, has been at work. It may truthfully be sad now that the bitterness of former years is being washed away by compassion and forgiveness. One touch of misfortune has indeed made us kin before the implacable horrors of war.

Rather than prolonged recriminations, the present time calls for sincere determination and redoubled efforts that such a holocaust may never, never be repeated. For this reason we Filipinos hail the new Japan for having renounced force as an instrument of national policy.

Our two countries have much in common other than material interests. Both adhere to democratic principles and both believe in progress through science and technology. And both, while holding fast to national culture and tradition, have benefited from their oneness with the Free World. Thus, our ideological and geophysical affinities are strong bonds that should hold us together in lasting friendship and enduring peace.

Through the visit of Prime Minister Kishi to the Philippines last year, the people of Japan have demonstrated their goodwill towards my country in clear and unmistakable terms. I am here now not only to return that visit and that goodwill, but to water the friendship which has been reborn following the conclusion of the Peace Treaty and the Reparations Agreement. Your efforts and ours during the recent years have been directed towards giving substance to the spirit of these treaties. Filipino-Japanese cooperation has thus become a reality where formerly it had been but a hope. But this state visit, I like to believe that I may be able, if only in a modest way, to contribute towards the

growth of this cooperation, to establish genuine friendship between neighbors, and to foster honorable peace not only in our part of the globe but throughout the world as well.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1958). Speech of President Garcia upon arrival in Tokyo. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 54(35), 8052-8053.

**Message of President Garcia to Emperor at the Imperial Banquet given in His Honor**

**Message  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
To Emperor at the Imperial Banquet given in His Honor**

[Released on 7:30 p.m., December 2, 1958]

MRS. GARCIA and I are deeply grateful for the invitation which Your Imperial Majesty has extended to us to visit Japan and for the warmest welcome accorded to us by your Imperial Majesties and the entire Japanese nation. For such high honor and distinction, may I express here the heartfelt appreciation of my government and the entire Filipino people.

It is indeed a source of spiritual satisfaction that after an estrangement of more than a decade and a half, our two nations have again met in a happy reunion to renew on firmer grounds our old friendship and goodwill.

It is true that in 1956 we have signed the San Francisco Peace Treaty, together with the Reparations Agreement and by these momentous acts the Philippine nation has decided to forgive and forget. But it is equally true that there persists still some mental reservation, some lingering vestiges of the rancour generated by the last war. It is my sincere hope that this occasion, warm with your cordiality and radiant with the famous Japanese hospitality, will mark the full reconciliation of the Filipino and Japanese peoples. And like long-lost friends who have found each other, we will pledge to each other henceforth to live close to each other as good neighbors in genuine and enduring friendship and real mutual understanding.

I share in the confidence expressed by your Imperial Majesty that the goodwill and unity generated by the visit to the Philippines of Prime Minister Nobosuke Kishi and my return visit to this great and beautiful country, upon your Majesty's kind invitation, will be translated into a better and more sincere collaboration between our two countries in political, economic, and cultural fields.

We have several things, in common. We are fellow-Asians. Geographically, we are of the same region, hardly 2,000 miles away from one another. We embrace the same political ideology which is the strongest bond of our oneness with the Free World. In 1935, through our Constitution, we renounced war as an instrument of national policy and in 1947 you incorporated the same transcendental political principle in the Constitution of New Japan.

All of these and many other factors constitute an enduring foundation of lasting friendship between our two countries. All of these constitute the imperatives for our two peoples to live and collaborate in honor, in peace, and in mutual understanding.

Mrs. Garcia and I, taking advantage of your Majesty's kind invitation, have come to Japan as bearers of the message of reborn goodwill and amity, from the hearts of the Filipino people.

From the spontaneous and warm welcome given us by the entire Japanese nation and from the expressions of noble sentiments from Your Imperial Majesty, from the Japanese press and from other outstanding leaders of this country, I gather incontestable evidences of the spirit of Japan, the spirit of friendliness towards other countries, the spirit of cooperation with the rest of the Free World to achieve enduring peace, prosperity, and happiness for all.

In response to this spirit may I invite the distinguished guests on this memorable occasion to offer a toast for the continued good health and happiness of their Majesties, the Empress and Emperor of Japan and for the continued prosperity of the Japanese people.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**





## **Speech of President Garcia before the Japanese Diet in Tokyo, December 2, 1958**

### **Speech of His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia President of the Philippines Before the Japanese Diet**

[Delivered in Tokyo, December 2, 1958]

I DEEPLY appreciate the opportunity to speak to the Japanese nation through their constitutional representatives in the Diet. This is a high distinction you have so generously accorded on my humble person.

I have come to your beautiful country upon the gracious invitation of His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of Japan, and His Excellency, the Prime Minister. The invitation struck a responsive chord in my heart because it betokened a genuine and sincere desire on the part of the Japanese government and people for the restoration of the normal relations of friendship and amity that had existed for centuries but which, unfortunately, were interrupted by the last war. The fact that this state visit I am making has received the unanimous endorsement of the Council of State of my country, the counterpart of your Council of Elders, bespeaks a similar desire on the part of my government and people. It is true that the lapse of twelve years has not completely healed the wounds and erased the last vestige of ill will that had been engendered by that cataclysmic event, but calm reflection has led to the conviction among our people that renewal of cordial relations would be the wisest course of action to follow at this juncture.

We have been encouraged to take this view by two significant developments; namely, Japan's agreement to make reparations payment and her renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy. The first revealed the willingness of the Japanese people to make amends and to pay at least partially for the damage, material and otherwise, suffered by my country and people as a result of the war. The second manifests a realization of the wisdom of friendly intercourse and serves as an assurance that the policy of waging wars of aggression has become a thing of the past. We in the Philippines welcome this development, for it agrees with the temper of my people, who made this same renunciation through our Constitution more than two decades ago.

Last year we had the honor of a visit from His Excellency, Premier Nobusuke Kishi. It was a fruitful visit, for it paved the way for better understanding between your people and mine. I am returning his visit in the hope and confidence that by so doing I shall be helping in strengthening further the desire of our peoples to live together as good neighbors in this part of the world. It is my aim and desire to lead my people in writing a new chapter in Japan-Philippine relations, one that shall be characterized by friendship and cordiality. It is a happy coincidence that my trip is being made close to the Christmas season, which in my country and the rest of Christendom is the season for reconciliation, for forgiving and forgetting.

Geographical propinquity as well as historical affinity would seem to make it logical, not to say necessary, for our two countries to be on friendly terms. In the first place, both countries are close neighbors, being separated by less than two thousand air miles, a negligible distance in this age of the jet plane. Both of them lie at the crossroads of trade between the East and the West. And both occupy strategic positions in the defense of Southeast Asia and the Pacific basin. These are the inexorable fact of geography which cannot be ignored without doing violence to the realities of our actual situation.

Then, too, historians tell us that Japan-Philippine relations are of long standing. These relations must have started before the coming of the Spaniards because when the latter found Manila in 1571, there was already a small Japanese colony in the locality. And at the outbreak of the war thousands of your countrymen were living in my country to trade and to engage in agriculture and fishing. And because of this association, the impact of your culture has had an enriching influence upon our own.

Thus it can be seen that there are compelling reasons for the maintenance of friendly relations between our two peoples. This overriding consideration in this relationship is our mutual security, for a portentous drama of titanic

proportions is unfolding in our midst. By the imperatives of geographical location, your country and mine are within the orbit of that danger. We have active roles to play in this drama. As two of the countries in the Far East that have come under the beneficent influence of democracy, it would be to our mutual interest to keep a singleness of purpose to the end that peace may be preserved in this area. I cherish the hope that my visit will serve that end and will help in ushering in a new era in Japan-Philippine relations—one of peace and friendship that shall grow stronger and stronger each passing year.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**Message of President Garcia before a banquet in honor of the Emperor and Empress of Japan, December 3, 1958**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S ADDRESS BEFORE A BANQUET IN HONOR  
OF THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF JAPAN, DECEMBER 3, 1958**

YOUR MAJESTY,  
YOUR EXCELLENCIES,  
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

YOU have honored me greatly with your presence in this modest banquet. I appreciate the pleasure of your company and hope that our pleasant if brief association is symbolic of the friendship between our two nations which your people and mine sincerely desire. Since my arrival in your beautiful country I have received many evidences of this great nation's cordiality and hospitality, for all of which I am most grateful on my own and Mrs. Garcia's behalf and on behalf of my people.

I like to think that such a friendship between this country and mine is now a-building. The recent visit to the Philippines of His Excellency, the Honorable Nobosuke Kishi, greatly improved the relations of our two peoples. I hope that my present sojourn in Japan, in response to the kind and cordial invitation of their Imperial Majesties and the Premier, can contribute to the same end.

This great country, I dare say, can still rekindle our prewar hope, provided it can lay down a completely new foundation of good relations with all Asia, so bold and so imaginative that it will be a courageous answer to the challenge to our troubled times. A part of this new Japanese approach to the problems of Asia should be, to my mind, full cooperation with those nations of the world, whether of the East or of the West, in good faith and with honorable, humanitarian, and philanthropic intentions, are helping to accelerate the social and economic development of Asian countries while preserving the liberties of their peoples.

Another Japanese approach which I feel essential to a new friendship and amity is to help protect Asia from the menace of the new imperialism that threatens the entire world. Japan will earn the gratitude of all Asians by assisting in protecting Asia from this spreading terror.

Further than this I dare suggest that Japan should lead in an Asian renaissance in a truly humanitarian spirit.

This country can once more win Asia's admiration and respect by advancing and sharing its science and technology, its industry and economy, its scholarship and philosophy, not as master and oppressor, not as conqueror and exploiter, but as an enlightened and sincere friend.

Speaking for the Philippines alone, I would like to state that there are additional bases of amity and friendship which my nation and this dynamic nation can cultivate. One of the nearest neighbors in this part of the world, our countries can and should mutually respect and follow the good-neighbor policy. The only two nations in Asia that have come under direct influence of democratic United States, the Philippines and Japan have in this common experience another basis of mutual understanding and deep cultural affinity. These facts establish between us a point of mutuality and impose upon us the shared duty to serve as a bridge between East and West. They bind us together in a unique partnership of understanding and obligation.

The Philippines and Japan can turn the lessons of their bitter war experiences into beacondights guiding the way to a new relationship of mutual friendship and amity. As neighbors, we can be good neighbors; as fellow-Asians, we can be friends; as believers in democracy and freedom, we can cooperate with others to develop a new and greater Asia liberated from all colonialism, living in freedom and marching forwards to new goals, of progress, prosperity, and contentment.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**Speech of President Garcia before an Informal Japanese Dinner given by the Philippine Consul, Gaimusho, Representative and president of the Philippine Society at Osaka, at 7:30 p.m. (Tokyo Time), Thursday, December 4, 1958**  
**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH BEFORE AN INFORMAL JAPANESE DINNER GIVEN BY THE PHILIPPINE CONSUL, GAIMUSHO, REPRESENTATIVE AND PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY AT OSAKA, AT 7:30 P.M. (TOKYO TIME), THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1958**

THIS IS a felicitous occasion in the history of the relations between the Japanese and the Filipino peoples. As Chief of the Philippine State, it is my pleasure and privilege to reciprocate the state visit of your Prime Minister to my country last year. The many tokens of esteem and friendship from the Japanese nation which I have received both during this visit and before it are, I trust, a portent of things to come in the way of complete restoration of friendly relations and goodwill between the Philippines and Japan.

The theme of my address to you today is the expansion of trade between the Philippines and Japan. Two island countries like ours, whose human and natural resources have been endowed with different qualities by the Creator, have in the postwar years made of these differences a firm foundation for the conduct of an expanding and mutually profitable exchange of commodities. The sea lanes between our two countries are busy with ships carrying north the three great mainstays of our export trade to Japan—base metals, forest products, and abaca—as well as a number of other products, and carrying south the machinery, equipment, tools, and consumer goods which pour out in such confusion from the factories of this industrial country.

Japan today holds the enviable position of being the only industrialized free country in the entire ECAFE region stretching from Afghanistan to Hokkaido. Among its neighbors are many underdeveloped nations which have to industrialize in order to escape the pangs of poverty resulting from the upsurge of population and the heritage of colonialism. Japan has to play a role in this part of the world in order to enable its neighbors to increase their respective production capacities. Steps towards these ends in terms of credit facilities and technical cooperation would be dynamic contributions toward attaining a more prosperous Far Eastern region. Indeed, Japan would be a much greater country if it were associated with an industrialized region instead of the present cluster of underdeveloped economies. Sound and hard-headed economic policy operates in the light of the realization that in raising through expanded trade the income levels of a country's trading partners will be mutually beneficial to both trade partners. Conceivably, external credits might take the form of government-to-government arrangements, credit lines through public and private financial institutions, or perhaps joint-ventures on the private firm level.

I look on such ventures not only as commercial propositions and as instruments for accelerating economic development, but also as legitimate means of promoting greater intercourse among our two peoples, greater mutual understanding, and therefore greater respect for one another. We know as we are privy to their deepest sentiments, that these would be the most effective means of wiping out the last war's legacy of suspicion and hostility. I would be less than candid if I did not admit that the wounds of battle, despite the lapse of more than a dozen years, have not been completely healed. The leaders of government and public opinion of both countries should face squarely this fact and direct their common efforts to obliterate the remaining vestiges of mental reservations and bitter memories of the last war. I have no doubt that a demonstration in deeds of your friendly, honorable, and neighborly intentions to the Filipinos would go very far in reestablishing old confidence, esteem, and respect. I am positive that all your acts in this direction will find a ready response from my people.

It is essential for the free world, and especially for free Asia, that a complete reconciliation between all peoples in this region be brought about as speedily as possible, for we can no longer afford to act in isolation/from one another if we are to live an abundant life in this age. Extend to us the hand of friendship with understanding and without reservation show us sympathetic concern in the development of our industries and in the utilization of our natural resources, and you shall find that the surviving relics of wartime rancors will melt away and our people will meet you face to face as friends in an atmosphere of political security and economic prosperity.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Speech of President Garcia on the Opening Day of the conference of Asian Universities on cultural cooperation at the U. P. Conference Hall, Diliman, Quezon City, December 15, 1958**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH ON THE OPENING DAY OF THE CONFERENCE OF ASIAN UNIVERSITIES ON CULTURAL COOPERATION AT THE U. P. CONFERENCE HALL, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY, DECEMBER 15, 1958**

I AM highly honored and pleased to address this assembly of distinguished educators who have come from different parts of Asia in order to take common counsel on how the universities in this region may be made to do their part in fostering cultural cooperation in Asia. It is an honor because it is always a privilege to speak before a select audience like this, composed of illustrious members of the intellectual elite. And it is a pleasure because I know that, in coming to this conference, I would be communing with learned scholars who are seriously engaged in man's eternal search for knowledge and truth.

As President of the Philippines I am gratified that this conference on higher education is being held in this university, thus affording my country and people an opportunity to play host to the eminent delegates of universities in this part of the globe. I hope our guests will find their sojourn in this country not only fruitful but also pleasant and satisfying.

It is well that the mentors of the youth in Asia should get together in an earnest endeavor to discover the possibilities for cultural cooperation and exchange among our respective countries. With a population of more than 360 million, the countries of eastern and southeastern Asia that belong to the community of free nations have great potentialities for making a valuable contribution to the enlightenment and progress of the world. Historians tell us that, as far as can be determined, civilization as we know it began in the Orient; that is, in the valleys of the Nile and the Tigris-Euphrates. It is also recorded that great civilizations have thrived in Malaysia, China, Korea, India, and Japan. Among these were the Sri-Vishayan and Madjapahit civilizations the influences of which are still felt in the Philippines to this day. I hope I would not be accused of indulging in wishful thinking if I say that the universities of Asia can do much to hasten the return of cultural preeminence to the Orient. At any rate, I am throwing the challenge to the intellectual leaders assembled here to bring about a renaissance of learning in Asia.

I need not tell you what you already know that one of the important functions of an institution of higher learning is the training of leaders who can safely steer the Ship of State and who can be called upon for counsel and guidance in times of stress. Some of the nations represented here are still in their infancy. Born in the throes of the last war, these countries are still feeling their way in the world. A few have already reached or are about to reach political maturity. But young or old, all of them are still in the period of rapid growth. All of them are in the process of building, a task which requires strenuous effort and competent direction. And since the active life of an individual is subject to biological limitations, it is essential that the reservoir of leadership be replenished at all times. For in the life of a nation there is never a time when enlightened leadership is not needed to chart the course of its progress.

But I venture to say that the heavy demands on the leader's wisdom and resourcefulness in this age of the atom and outer space conquest require a well-balanced education involving all powers of the individual—intellectual, physical, aesthetic, and spiritual. The modern leader must have the mental acumen to comprehend the import of the vast sweep of science and technology across the centuries, the physical stamina to withstand the rigors of modern living, the aesthetic sensibility to appreciate the beauty of the universe as well as the beauty of the human thoughts and ideas recorded in stone, on canvas, and on the printed page, and the spiritual insight to realize the sustaining strength of faith in the Supreme Ruler, who holds the destinies, of nations in the hollow of His palm.

And so, I repeat, training for leadership must make provision for culture. But what is culture? What constitutes the culture of a people? Different thinkers understand the term in different ways according to their educational background. However, I shall at this moment take the view of the anthropologist and define culture as the sum total of the social institutions and ways of living and acting which have been generally accepted by the people. Included in this concept are the laws, customs, music, art, literature, and the aggregate of the creations, material as well as non-material, of the group.

Since culture is the product of man's ceaseless effort to adjust himself to his physical and social environment, it is only natural to expect that the culture of nations will vary, it being a fact that in the nature of things the environment of people differs in different countries. Furthermore, the impact of one culture upon another in the course of conquest and colonization must result in a modification of the culture and culture patterns of the colonized. And since the inscrutable hand of Destiny has placed most of our countries under the influence of colonizing powers for centuries, it is not to be wondered at that our cultures have developed along different lines. In so far as the Philippines is concerned, she has superimposed upon her autochthonous Malayan culture the culture of such countries in the Far East as China, Japan, and India and at the same time has taken on the Latin culture which she received from Spain and the Anglo-Saxon culture which came to her through her contact with the United States. Influenced by these two cultures of the West, our resultant culture has differed considerably from those of the other countries in Asia.

But in a way of speaking, this diversity is a blessing in disguise, for it makes the exchange of culture among our respective countries highly beneficial and fruitful. Because of this diversity every country has something to give to the other countries. Therefore, cultural cooperation among these countries is more desirable. In this way, we can move progressively toward the enrichment of one another's cultural legacy. And in these days of increasing tension which in some countries threatens to develop into a conflagration, the consequences of which can only be imagined but not fully grasped, cooperation among nations in the field of culture will go a long way toward bringing about mutual understanding and friendship among them.

As a first step in this direction, the University of the Philippines established a few years ago, with the assistance of the Asia Foundation, the Institute of Asian Studies for students who desire to know about the culture of the Philippines and the neighboring countries. It is to be deplored that in spite of the geographical proximity of our countries and the racial affinity of our peoples, we have been almost total strangers to one another. It is our hope that through this institute we shall come to know one another better so that together we can make our contribution to the culture of the world.

It is a matter for congratulation that on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the University of the Philippines this conference of Asian universities is being held, for it will provide a splendid opportunity for the heads of universities and professors to put their heads together in the consideration of the important problem of cultural cooperation. It is my hope and wish that your deliberations will be attended with success and will be characterized by a sincere desire to foster international understanding and friendship.

The late English historian H. G. Wells, in his book, *Outline of History*, characterized human history as a race between education and catastrophe. We are witnesses to the fact that, in two world wars which were only less than three decades apart, education almost lost and that we came close to the brink of catastrophe. Humanity fervently prays that it be saved from the horrors of a third holocaust which may spell the end of our civilization. The educators of the world are the hope of the human race. Upon your shoulders rests the responsibility of strengthening the cause of peace by spreading culture as a unifying force in building the defenses of peace in the minds of men.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**Speech of President Garcia formally launching the Cancer Society Fund Drive in ceremony held at the Social Hall in Malacanang, December 15, 1958 SPEECH OF PRESIDENT GARCIA FORMALLY LAUNCHING THE CANCER SOCIETY FUND DRIVE IN CEREMONY HELD AT THE SOCIAL HALL IN MALACANANG MONDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 15, 1958**

THROUGH the centuries of human history, one of the most horrible and mysterious of the dread scourges of mankind has been cancer.

Although the disease has become recognized and investigated scientifically only over the past few decades, there is evidence showing that cancer existed even in the ancient civilizations of the world.

Today, mankind has massed itself in a drive against its common enemy. In the United States, Europe, and the enlightened parts of Asia, cancer is being pushed back by progressive public health programs primarily designed to detect and treat the disease during its early and curable stages.

Because of the fact that we do not know the real cause of the disease, the efforts of the Philippine anti-cancer groups have been directed to detection and preventive treatments. Again, because of lack of funds, our own technical men have been unable to go into the actual and expensive research on the causes of, and new treatments for, cancer.

We are very much gratified to note that here in the Philippines, the citizenry has not lent deaf ears to the call of duty in the fight against cancer.

The establishment of the Philippine Cancer Society two years ago marked a milestone in the country's fight against the effects of the disease. It was a manifestation of the fact that Filipinos will band together, give generously of their talents, time, and money to fight a common enemy that is killing hundreds of thousands annually.

The construction of the first cancer detection center by the Philippine Cancer Society is undoubtedly one of the important battles won in the fight against the disease in the Philippines.

The government, on its part, has not been idle. The Reorganization Act for the Department of Health which I certified for implementation provides for the creation of a Division of Cancer Control which we all anticipate, will go a long way toward achieving a concerted action against the plagues of cancer.

The activation of the cancer control division of the department will be able to do much, I am sure, in fighting the disease and will furthermore be instrumental in the saving of many lives.

The cooperation and unity of purpose manifested in the work of the Philippine Cancer Society and the health department is entirely in keeping with the modern concept of progressive government. It reflects the attitude that joint participation of both the government and the responsible and generous members of the community is essential to any successful large-scale and long-range undertaking.

I therefore call on every Filipino to contribute generously to the country's war against this disease, realizing that every peso given may save the life of a fellow-Filipino.

I congratulate the Philippine Cancer Society for the work it has done. . . and done well. I hope that it will carry on its humanitarian efforts boldly, encouraged by the support and generosity of the average Filipino citizen.

It is my privilege to present my personal contribution today to the third Philippine Cancer Drive.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library



**Speech of President Garcia at the Third Annual Award of the Suburban Press Club held at the National Press Club Building, December 17, 1958 Speech**

**of**

**His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia**

**President of the Philippines**

**At the Third Annual Award of the Suburban Press Club**

*[National Press Club Building, December 17, 1958]*

GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS:

TWICE within a fortnight have I had the occasion to face an assemblage of the press boys—the first one in Tokyo and the second tonight—and I have been constrained to agree with an observer's remarks that if this goes on for the rest of December, I shall have noticed that this month was not the coldest month but rather the hottest in the year. I have been told that the local press blows hot and cold at intervals—but as I see it, it has been blowing mostly hot. I would add, however, that your spontaneous applause for me tonight warms me to my heart.

My friends, information media serving the rural areas of our country had been taken for granted in the past. Many of the metropolitan dailies more often reach only the chief towns and municipalities of the provinces, and circulates among a limited subscribers therein. The situation is often aggravated by the fact that in some towns and municipalities, newspapers and news magazines are delivered several days past their date of issue. A recent survey made by two researchers underscored the glaring fact that the Philippine rural population was "hungry" for information about the work and plans of the government. The survey further indicated that magazines, newspapers, and other reading material were passed from hand to hand and people often congregated in the houses of the few fortunate ones who owned radios to hear the latest news.

I am glad to note, however, that the suburban and provincial press lately has grown in number and that the total combined circulation of more than 190 daily, weekly, monthly, and quarterly publications in 53 provinces has reached the 850,000 mark. While indeed, this figure may still be below the desired level, indications point to its steady growth. I strongly feel that within five years, more and more of our rural areas will stand to benefit from the projected increase in the number of provincial publications.

My administration, ever desirous of informing our people throughout the length and breadth of the country about the work and actuations of the government, has bolstered the presidential press office with the establishment of a provincial section to serve solely the needs of the provincial press. Today, more news material are being channeled to the rural areas, and as a consequence more of the people in the rural areas are better informed.

The potentialities of the provincial press emphasize the tremendous responsibility that the editors and news reporters of the provincial papers have in their hands. The provincial press is the main artery of information between the outside world and the rural areas. It is a link between the minds of men who inform and those who would be informed of the truth. The printed word could be a physical link more so than the spoken word. Information through word of mouth can be distorted and so can the printed word. But the difference lies in the latter's permanent character

Often enough, we hear of rural folks swearing as gospel truth a canard handed about by critics of the Administration who would sow hate and distrust among the people. The adverse effect of such malicious information systematic ally voiced by the so-called prophets of disaster could only result in confusion and dissension among our people and therefore, could pave the way for agents and provocateurs of a godless ideology in another attempt to lure away our citizens from their chosen way of life. Once in 1949 these agents nearly succeeded in their diabolical plot to wean them of their side. This should not happen again.

A people, uninformed, are prone to believe anything passed to them as legitimate news. But a well-informed people will readily discern the truth from a bare-faced lie.

Indeed, the provincial press has a grave responsibility in its hands and this calls for the highest integrity in the men who run it—from the publisher down to the reportorial level. By integrity, we mean the strict adherence to what is factual and true and the maintenance of a free and strong press. A news item slanted to serve the interests of one man, or an editorial designed to enhance the ambitions of an interested individual—compensated by political favors or promises of political opportunities are manifestations of servitude. Servitude is not freedom; it is a sign of weakness. When this happens, then the press is no longer free.

We have here in this country one of the freest and strongest press in world today. It is a distinct achievement in the sense that not all the press in the world are free. Those behind the iron curtain, for instance, cannot claim this distinction. There are others within the orbit of the free world but which are not totally as free as ours. Our press has remained free and strong mainly because the men behind it have jealously guarded that sacred principle, and the Administration has respected such a principle. To quote a famous man (Colton): “The press is not only free, it is powerful. That power is ours. It is the proudest that man can enjoy. It was not granted by monarchs; it was not gained for us by aristocracies; but it sprang from the people and, with an immortal instinct, it has always worked for the people.”

The provincial press, serving the greatest area in our country, is the backbone of public opinion. Its collective strength places it in a unique position as educator, informant, and guardian to millions of our people. In recognition of this fact, I invited your representative to join me in my recent state visit to Japan.

My friends of the press: such is the weight of the burden which you must shoulder in your chosen profession. An accurate report can serve not only your interests as reliable pressmen but, what is more important, the welfare of our people. An inaccuracy can have disastrous effects to the country.

These are the basic principles of good journalism as I know it. I am sure that a repetition of these principles can not be complete without this observation that there are always two sides to a story. Any good journalist, true to his profession, knows that to report only one side of a story is not only being unfair to the individual concerned but he is guilty also of one-sided, biased, and prejudiced reporting.

In closing, I wish to assure each and everyone of you that the freedom of the press in our country will be maintained and respected during my administration. This I promise.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia at the Traditional “President’s Night” sponsored annually by the Manila Overseas Press Club in honor of the President and the First Lady at the MOPC Building, December 18, 1958**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA’S SPEECH AT THE TRADITIONAL “PRESIDENT’S NIGHT” SPONSORED ANNUALLY BY THE MANILA OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB IN HONOR OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE FIRST LADY AT THE MOPC BUILDING, THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 18, 1958**

MY FRIENDS:

I HAVE come to look forward to this annual event for two reasons. First, it affords me an opportunity to meet and chat in a relaxed and informal atmosphere with friends I see otherwise only in their professional news-gathering activities. My second reason derives from a tradition which has grown up in connection with these annual festivities. My predecessors as well as myself have taken advantage of the cosmopolitan and world-minded group which usually assembles here to discuss, report, and clarify administration foreign policy and the general subject of our external affairs. I propose to continue the tradition this evening.

I would hesitate to introduce this note of sobriety into an otherwise gay atmosphere if I were not aware of the fact that the conscientious reporter—sometimes to my chagrin—considers no time or place inappropriate for seeking news. However, I do not intend to let business usurp too much of the time we have set aside tonight for relaxation and the friendly exchange of views.

I have been asked recently if our increased emphasis upon Asian relations—notably my visit to Japan—was indicative of any significant shift in foreign policy. My answer, of course, was in the negative. On the contrary, I pointed out, the forging of closer ties with our free Asian neighbors is a specific of the Administration’s foreign policy, a traditional plank of the Nacionalista platform, and in fact one of the policies endorsed by all shades of domestic political opinion. The late President Magsaysay not only stated it as a major element of his political outlook but gave it further expression in his sympathetic encouragement of the now internationally-lauded Operations Brotherhood which has brought us so much closer to our sister Republic of Vietnam. Unfortunately, however, we have been so preoccupied with our many and vexing domestic problems that we have not been able to do as much as we might have wished to established more such neighborly ties.

Racially and geographically we are an Asian people. If for no other reason we should be making this effort to reach out for closer cooperation, for better understanding, for the cultural exchange which is the very essence of man’s constantly broadening spiritual and intellectual horizons. But today there is added reason for us to make this effort, a reason which lends significance and urgency to the task we have assumed.

There is a growing awareness in Asia that the relentless drive of communism for world domination is something that cannot be ignored by any free Asian. Appropriately— or perhaps ironically—the most sobering warning comes from the mainland of Asia itself. There the Chinese Communists proudly announce their communes, a preview of Marxist Utopia as they themselves describe it to a shocked world; it is the most monstrous and gruesome degradation of a people in modern history. The very bedrock of the Asian way of life—the family—has been shattered by decree. In its place has been imposed a fantastic militarized social system in which men and women, husbands and wives, live in separate barracks and eat in segregated mess halls, while their children are raised in state institutions. Marched off to work and marched back again, their every waking hour is under rigid direction and discipline. No feudal despot, no imperialist conqueror has ever dared attempt as complete an enslavement of a people.

to work and marced back again, their every waking hour no imperialist conqueror has even dared attempt an enslavement of a people.

If the impact of this development were only upon our conscience as fellow humans, it would be bad enough. But beyond our compassion for its victims, comes the realization of the purpose of this social nightmare. Where ancient despots employed slave labor to build monuments to their egos, these slaves of our time are being employed to build a powerful, aggressive, state machine intended to subjugate its neighbors who, indeed, already are wincing under its destructive pressure.

Only recently the Malayan minister of commerce attacked Chinese Communist dumping practices in South Asia as naked use of slave labor for economic warfare. It was pointed out that products were being sold for only a fraction of their cost of manufacture and 300 per cent below the mainland selling price. Soviet dumping of tin below its own purchased price to capture traditional markets has also been protested.

Elsewhere other of our free Asian neighbors are rising to protest veiled economic and political aggressions by the Red Bloc. Indonesia's chief delegate to the Afro-Asian conference has challenged the right of the Soviets to speak for the subjugated Moslems of Central Asia. Thailand found it necessary to expel two Soviet diplomats for espionage and subversion. In Burma new regulations are being applied to check the economic subversion activities of Communist-controlled banks. Japan just recently experienced a Chinese Communist effort to use trade agreements as a weapon to influence internal Japanese politics.

More and more free Asians are coming to realize that the Communist invitation to peaceful coexistence was an empty propaganda gesture. Each day there is mounting evidence in this part of the world that the Communists' pious endorsement of "pancha sila" does not inhibit them from cynically violating these principles any more than they have hesitated to violate the universally accepted canons of international law.

In Europe a distressed airman who happened to land in Red-controlled territory is shamelessly held hostage for political bargaining. In this hemisphere, even now, we are witnessing the incredibly callous tactic of deadly artillery barrages—with their attendant human suffering—launched on alternate days, not for military conquest, mind you, but merely to advance a propaganda line. However reluctantly, therefore, hitherto hopeful Asians have come to accept the grim fact that the Communists have not relaxed their aggressive pressures, that Moscow and Peking leaders meant it when they vowed continued adherence to Leninism—which means the objective of a totally Communist world by fair means or foul—and that they have merely changed their weapons of warfare.

How this change came about is pertinent to our present Asian policy line. It will be recalled that the SEATO came into being as the free world's response in this area to the challenge of naked military Red aggression against Asian peoples and states. There has been some argument as to the actual strength of the SEATO collective security system. While the Chinese Communist have called it a "paper tiger," their ceaseless propaganda efforts to destroy it suggest that it is no small source of concern. Certainly, whatever the fire-power of SEATO may be, its deterrent effectiveness is beyond dispute. The inescapable fact is that Red military aggressions ceased when the SEATO was born, and, in keeping with Leninist doctrine, the Communist shifted to a policy of attraction, cloaking the tactic of deceit prescribed likewise by Lenin as an orthodox element of Red polity.

Thus, the war goes on. Only the weapons—at least temporarily—have changed. How are we to respond to this challenge? Collective purpose, collective actions, and a pooling of resources was effective in the military phase. Why should it not be effective in the current situation? We believe that it can be.

It is difficult to say at this time exactly what form collective Asian defense against Communist economic and political aggression should take. An essential pre-condition of such effort, however, is obvious. Among the members of the free Asian community there must develop a broad and sympathetic understanding of each others' thinking, problems, and national objectives. Only with such understanding can we explore the common ground upon which a common economic, political, and spiritual defense may be based and collective action undertaken. To achieve this understanding for ourselves and to encourage our neighbors to seek it is what motivates the current emphasis of our foreign policy.

In pursuing this path we feel that we are fulfilling our own concept of the role of each member of the free world community in its defense. Having reached the conviction that the Communist drive toward world domination is not

a conventional big power struggle from which we can stand aloof, it becomes an obligation involving national self-respect not to leave the waging of the battle to others. Our sovereign dignity demands that we make every contribution within our competence to the arsenal of freedom. This is a contribution we can make and one which, modest though it may be, could mark a turning point in the adverse tide.

We approach our self-imposed task with humility, seeking no role of leadership, offering only the wholesome Filipino concept of the *barangay*. If we can thereby serve as catalysts of free Asian unity and cooperation for the preservation of our hard won freedoms, our share of the victory will be more than ample justification.

But there are other facets, other by-products, to this. calculated expansion of our foreign relations. If I have stressed its security aspects, its relations to the massive global contest for man's freedom, it is because survival, after all, must be the prime concern of the nations as well as individuals. The individual may survive, after a fashion, as a slave, but the vital organs of a nation are its institutions and the nation ceases to exist once those institutions are destroyed.

In our concern for security from external destruction, therefore, we have not ignored the *domestic* requirements for survival—economic expansion and development to meet the expanding needs and expanding expectations of an expanding population. A characteristic of the modern world is the growing interdependence of all its parts. We have seen the enemy's application of a total war strategy in which the assault takes place on all fronts of human activity—military, economic, political, and even spiritual. Our response to the challenge must be comparably total. In brief, every element of our domestic society must be strengthened, every member of the free world community must be strengthened, if the community as a whole is to prevail over its foes.

New channels of trade and commerce, the exchange of ideas, the absorption of new experience—all these nutrients of national growth are part of our Asian quest. Confident of the stability and durability of our traditional foreign relationships, we are now prepared to broaden our horizons, to explore *additional* areas of friendship and cooperation. If this is to be called a shift of policy, it must not be misconstrued as a shift of indecision. On the contrary, it should be recognized as a shift to a higher plane of national maturity and national self-confidence.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Message of President Garcia on Christmas, December 24, 1958**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA’S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE, DECEMBER 24, 1958**

THE perpetuity of Christmas and what it stands for never have been more implicit in Mankind’s unceasing search for world peace and universal brotherhood. While all Christendom pauses from its daily toil to celebrate the Feast of His Nativity, we must not lose sight of the spiritual significance of the occasion and the message that it brings to all men of all nations: Peace on earth and goodwill among men.

I wish to give thanks to Our Lord for having guided us through the year. While we have been beset by problems, principally on the economic field, we have nevertheless been fortunate in other fields of endeavor. We have, in particular, been blessed with a bumper crop of rice and corn which this country never experienced before. We have been endowed with abundance and wealth in natural resources. Compared with many countries of the world, we have indeed every reason to be grateful.

On this day when charity and noble thoughts should be the prevailing sentiment, I enjoin the entire nation to give thanks to Christ, the Prince of Peace, for the blessings we have received, and at the same time to lift our hearts and minds in fervent prayer that the message of Christmas reach into the hearts of all men.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia before the Philippine Center of International Pen Conference**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
Before the Philippine Center of International Pen Conference**

[Delivered at Pines Hotel, Baguio, December 27, 1958]

I AM highly honored by your invitation to address this brilliant group of Filipino writers who are meeting today in this mountain city. A more suitable site for your conference could not have been chosen, for here in this romantic spot, with its enchanting scenery and its invigorating climate, one can hardly resist the urge to be in an expansive mood and to give expression to the emotions that surge in one's being. It is the kind of atmosphere that would tempt a poet to strike his lyre.

The theme of your conference warms my heart because it evinces a desire on your part not to be mere passive onlookers but to be active participants in the building of our national structure, and the statement of your objective shows that you are alive to the forces that operate in our contemporary society. I am, therefore, confident that this conference will prove stimulating and, therefore, helpful and beneficial not only to yourselves but also for our country.

I am happy to note the rise in our country of a generation of writers in English, the *lingua franca* of the world of these times. It is as yet not a big group, it is true, but considering the size of our population and the fact that English has been with us for only about half a century, this accomplishment of our people may be considered as noteworthy. It is a tribute to the literary genius of your young writers that some of their works have gained recognition in the United States and in the English-speaking world. I suggest that they continue to develop their art and thus add luster to our country's name. It is my considered view, in which I am certain the forward-looking statesmen and realistic thinkers of Filipinos agree, that if we must elevate our international position, prestige, and influence in a world that has in fact adopted English as the *lingua franca* and if we must keep abreast with the wings of cultural and material progress, our writing in English should be given positive encouragement. I am convinced that meetings like this one will provide the incentive for this development.

I, therefore, congratulate you heartily on the bright idea of holding this conference at this time so that you can discuss your common problems and receive mutual inspiration from your association with your peers and comrades.

It is also heartening to see that among those attending this conference are writers in the leading vernaculars in the country, for in our desire to push forward culturally, we must not be guilty of neglecting what is our own. We need to encourage our vernacular writers in order to keep our native languages alive and growing. It would be tragic, if not sheer folly on our part, if we are to allow our vernaculars and especially the national language to perish for want of encouragement. After all, the national soul can truly express its deepest sentiments and emotions, its most beautiful conceptions in art and culture and its deathless thoughts only through the vehicle of its autochthonous language. I mean here the people as a whole. I do not mean that individual Filipino writers cannot express their most patriotic thoughts in a foreign language.

Because it is a historical fact that Rizal's immortal masterpieces, even his dying testament, the last farewell, were written in Spanish; Palma, who wrote the lyrics of our national anthem, did it in Spanish; Quezon's and Osmeña's orations were in both Spanish and English, and the constellation of Filipino writers who fought for our freedom and independence in the 19th and 20th centuries wrote in Spanish and/or English and yet they all expressed the national soul.

But it is also another historical fact that all these great writers and orators, when appealing to the masses of our people, had to use the vernacular. If I may be allowed to cite a personal case, I can vouch that my humble poetic contributions to Philippine literature were all in the vernacular. If they were written in English, I doubt if the popular response in the Visayan-speaking region that they got could be as warm, as deep, and as lasting.

In this connection, let me say a few things about our national language. We should never overlook the fact that in the development of languages they borrow from one another; the English and Spanish and French and Italian from Latin. The Latin from the Greek and Sanskrit and so on down the line.

The Castillian tongue merged with the Basque, the Catalan, the Sevillian, and other vernaculars in Spain to become the Spanish language. The English had the same development consolidated out of the vernacular of the Saxons, Angles, Welsh, Scotch, Irish, etc. The technical terms in art and science are mostly coined out of Greek or Latin deviations. If the inter-borrowing of words by modern languages is freely indulged in, why should our national language develop differently? We have a vast number of vernaculars like, the Tagalog, Visayan, Ilocano, Bicolano, Hiligaynon, to name a few. Could all these not be welded into a rich and beautiful national language further enriching it with, the coinage of words for science and art? I endorse these ideas to this conference, of writers.

There is hardly any doubt that writers the-world over can contribute and have contributed in the past to the growth and development of their respective countries. The pages of history are replete with instances of this significant fact. In every country, the beautiful thoughts and lofty ideals that have been recorded through the ages on stone, papyrus, parchment, or paper have served as rich nourishment for the minds of the people who read them. In fact, men and women of letters play the role of silent mentors, shaping the thinking and attitudes of those who read their writings. If education is the foundation of every State, as an ancient sage once said, then the writers who provide the materials of education must receive high credit for their part in laying that foundation.

Moreover, popular movements that have led to far-reaching changes and upheavals in the social and political situation of different countries have been linked with the activities of literary men and women. I do not mean by this statement that it was the writers that caused those movements. Rather, it would be more accurate to say that it was through the pens of these literary men and women that the grievances, fears, hopes, and longings of the people were made articulate. "In some instances, the emotions were aroused to such a high pitch that by degrees an irresistible force developed like heat in the bosom of the mountain which finally went off in a terrific explosion.

Who does not recall the part that Voltaire and Rousseau played in fanning the popular discontent of the French people which finally led to that social cataclysm recorded in history as the French Revolution? Living at a time when the middle classes and the peasantry of France were groaning under the tyranny and oppression of the feudal aristocracy, these two men of letters became the powerful spokesmen of the people who were seeking enfranchisement from virtual economic bondage. Voltaire, with his pungent criticism of the existing economic and political order, and Rousseau, with his bitter censure of the social inequality of mankind as elaborated in his theory of the social contract, brought the passions of the populace to a white heat that eventually burst into a conflagration which shook the feudalists system to its very foundation. No one realized this fact more fully than Louis XVI himself, who, upon seeing the books of Rousseau and Voltaire in the prison of Temple fortress where he had been incarcerated, remarked that those two men had destroyed France, meaning of course the Bourbon Dynasty.

Similarly, the writers of the colonial period in the United States did much to galvanize the sentiments of the colonists in favor of separation from England as a result of which the war of the revolution broke; out and finally "ended "in the: independence of the thirteen colonies in 1776. Later, another writer, Harriet Beecher Howe, by "writing- Uncle Tom's Cabin voiced the aversion of many people "to the inhumanity of the institution of slavery, thus paving the way for the emancipation of the American Negro by the immortal Abraham Lincoln. It can, therefore, be said with much truth that she helped greatly the cause of personal freedom in the United States. In England the trend towards more democracy and greater interest in social welfare during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries were reflected in the works of such writers as Paine, Gray, Burns, and Carlyle to mention only the most prominent.



Thomas Paine pointed out the need of creating peasant proprietorship, of paying old age pensions, and of spending liberally for the education of the children. Thomas Gray sang of the short and simple annals of the poor and Robert Burns minimized the significance of rank, wealth, or blood and stressed the importance of individual worth. Thomas Carlyle glorified the honest worker and denounced the industrial revolution which he believed was responsible for the sufferings of the laboring class.

Coming now to our own country, we recall how the writers of the different periods of our history have contributed to the building of our nation when our country was fighting for reforms. During the Spanish regime we had a group of writers working in Spain led by such famous men as Marcelo del Pilar, Graciano Lopez Jaena, and Dr. Jose Rizal, who not only pictured before the Spanish authorities and the Spanish people the deplorable conditions then obtaining in our country but also worked for the institution of reforms. And that is not all they did, for they also aroused the patriotic sentiments of the Filipinos and made them conscious of their common ideals, hopes, and aspirations. In other words, they united the Filipino people in a common cause, namely, the amelioration of conditions in their native country.

During the American administration, the longings of the Filipino people for political independence, for a desire to determine their own destiny, found able champions in such writers as Sergio Osmeña, Rafael Palma, Teodoro Kalaw, and the dynamic leader, the late President Manuel L. Quezon. These leaders presented our case before the American people so vigorously that the American Congress saw the justice of our cause and passed first the Jones Law and later the Tydings-Mcduffie Independence Act which definitely granted the Philippines her independence after a transition period of ten years. And so, on July 4, 1946, the Philippine Republic was born. We have been enjoying our independence for more than twelve years but the fight is not over. For while we have won our political freedom, yet we can hardly say that we are now economically free. Therefore, we must now bend our efforts toward this new objective of full economic freedom without which political freedom would be empty. And so, just as our writers in the past have used their energy and talents in the effort to secure our political independence, I now charge our present day writers to apply their energies to the new problem before our people—that of securing our economic security, stability, and independence.

Lastly, I would ask you to delve into our culture and glorify it. There is no dearth of subjects to write about the blending of three main cultural streams—the Malay, the Latin, and the Anglo-Saxon. Right here our country provides an inexhaustible well-spring for our writers to draw upon. We have our folkways, our legends, and our epic poems which have been handed down by word of mouth from father to son. These must be recorded if we wish to preserve them for all time.

Ladies and Gentlemen: As wielders of the pen, you have the signal opportunity as well as the grave responsibility to help in the unending task of nation building. This is a difficult task and needs the undivided support and the wholehearted cooperation of all our citizens in order to endure. This edifice must rest on a strong and solid foundation but certain dark forces, if not overcome, may weaken this foundation; namely, cupidity, selfishness, inordinate ambition, dishonesty on one hand, and defeatism, negative thinking, and Godless materialism on the other. If the pen is mightier than the sword, as Bulwer Lytton once said, then I urge you to use the power that is yours to fight and crush those forces of evil in order that we may insure the security of our Republic, the performance of our democratic institutions, and the welfare and prosperity of our people. To me, the writers' slogan should be "Keep and Develop English and Spanish for our International Front and the National Language for our National Front."

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1958). Speech of President Garcia before the Philippine Center of International Pen Conference. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(1), 5-9.

**Message of President Garcia on the 62nd Death Anniversary of Dr. Jose Rizal Message  
of**

**His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
On the 62nd Death Anniversary of Dr. Jose Rizal**

[Delivered on December 29, 1958]

I JOIN the Filipino people in warmly remembering today our foremost national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal.

When the firing squad felled Dr. Rizal with a hail of bullets on Bagumbayan field on December 30, 1896, the Spanish authorities then revelled in the belief that they had closed the last chapter of the life of another Indio "traitor." Hardly had they thought that, in snuffing out the physical life of Dr. Rizal, they had given him spiritual perpetuity in the hearts of his countrymen.

Today, in the harsh impact of present international events that every so often rock man's freedom, and over a half century after his death, Dr. Rizal is writing the grand epilogue of his mortal life.

That epilogue is that as long as man realizes that God created him to be free, so long will he resist any attempt to consign him in shackles.

Man's ceaseless fight to be free is today the world's supreme problem. Dr. Rizal might not be known far and wide, but, if we Filipinos keep guided by the noblest ideals for which he lived and died, then we can be called a solid asset of a free world at present locked in a virtual death struggle with sinister forces bent on enslaving it. Dr. Rizal himself would give us no choice but align ourselves with all peoples of our persuasion.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1958). Message of President Garcia on the 62nd Death Anniversary of Dr. Jose Rizal. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(2), 219.

**Message of President Garcia on the occasion of the 67th birthday of the late President Manuel Roxas**

**Message  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
On the occasion of the 67th birthday of the late President Manuel Roxas**

[Issued on December 31, 1958]

I JOIN the friends of the late President Manuel A. Roxas in their celebration of his 67 birthday.

As a soldier, President Roxas' patriotism was beyond question. It is common knowledge that he feigned all sorts of illnesses to thwart Japanese plans to make him collaborate with the enemy government. He was the silent symbol of resistance against the invader and helped greatly to steady our people's morale in the darkest hours.

His sincerity as Chief Executive could not be doubted. He toiled ceaselessly, oblivious of his health, to put our country in the best economic state. It was unfortunate that he did not live to see his plans materialize.

It is well that the friends of Roxas are celebrating his 67th birthday. This gesture does justice to this great man.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1958). Message of President Garcia on the occasion of the 67th birthday of the late President Manuel Roxas. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(2), 220-221.

**OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**

**Message of President Garcia issued on New Year's Eve**

**Message  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
On New Year's Eve**

[Issued on December 31, 1958]

WITH the beginning of another year, time once again brings us upon the threshold of new scenes, new hopes, and new endeavors. The year just past was an eventful year and we bid it farewell with grateful retrospection while we welcome 1959 with new optimism and faith and confidence.

In this country we should, indeed, all be thankful that we have peace; that unlike many other peoples in this trying age, we are allowed to live our lives in freedom. For my part, I desire to rededicate myself to safeguarding that peace and that freedom as the imperatives in our collective effort to make prosperity flourish and last throughout the nation.

As we gather about time's new door today, there is no reason why we should not do so with happy expectation. Around us freshly lingers the memory of 1958, and its blessings upon hearth and home. To us arises the hope that the new year will bring us new blessings from the boundless bounty of Divine Providence.

We launched a program for self-sufficiency in the basic needs of our people: food, clothing, and shelter. And in 1958, the country saw and enjoyed a nation-wide bumper crop in rice and corn, the nation's staple foods, that we can say for the first time in many years that we have achieved self-sufficiency in food. While this may not be a panacea to all our needs, this achievement which I hope will endure, is certainly a tangible fruit of our collective effort and a mark of advancement. More than itself and its timely bounties, 1958's plentiful harvests symbolize our people's capacity for determined, earnest cooperative effort on a national scale.

We also succeeded in reducing our annual importation of textiles from ₱300 million to ₱100 million; we are developing and encouraging the cotton industry wherever practicable in various regions of the country and have witnessed some progress in this respect that warrants our hope that perhaps in 1959 or in the near future, we may achieve self-sufficiency in clothing. We have also advanced considerably toward the exploitation of our rich mineral resources, especially our iron deposits, and the establishment of our integrated steel industry so that we may produce and process our own requirements in building materials, thus leading us to achieving self-sufficiency in shelter.

The past year also showed a maturing of thought and vision which has quickened for us a more wholesome national life. We exerted sincere efforts to banish ills in the government and defeatism and negative thinking as well. We strove for greater national identity and security. Two presidential visits were made abroad in an endeavor to attain goodwill and understanding between us and other peoples. I am happy to recall that both visits advanced us in such good will and understanding and promoted for us a better place among nations.

Both as a citizen among you and as your representative in government, I wish to greet everyone on this happy occasion. It is a day of beginning and anticipation. I am confident that courage and faith will remain with us and that such courage and faith will reap good rewards for all in the coming year.

May the blessings of God be with you all on this New Year's day.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1958). Message of President Garcia issued on New Year's Eve. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(2), 219-220.

**Speech of President Garcia before the First Assembly of Philippine National Cooperative Bank**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
Before the First Assembly of Philippine National Cooperative Bank**

[Delivered at the YMCA Youth Center, Concepcion Street, at 10:00 a.m., January 16, 1959]

DELEGATES TO THE CONVENTION,  
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I AM glad to have been invited to address this convention which, I understand has, for its principal aim the consideration of necessary steps towards the establishment of a Philippine, National Cooperative Bank, as contemplated and authorized by Republic Act No. 2033. Perhaps I should add that, for a program of the magnitude envisaged in the legislation which inspired this meeting, taking into account the present state of our finances, in relation to the essential needs and demanding requirements of our people, it takes the maximum of your courage, vision, and, dedication to bring this to a happy reality.

I need not be convinced that the purpose for which Republic Act No. 2033 was enacted, which is to strengthen the cooperative movement in the financial field, is of the considerable importance. I am keenly aware of the need of promoting cooperative organization and, financing of the economic enterprises of the, smallest units of our society, many of which are languishing, so as to ameliorate conditions in our rural areas and to build up even our far flung communities as vital factors in strengthening the national economy. It is hardly necessary for me, to remind you that the, story, of most of our cooperatives in the country is not one of success. We have yet to achieve more of that spirit of collectivism and perhaps a little less of individualism.

This should not deter you, however, from proceeding in accordance with your agenda, which is to consider the needed steps that would lead to, the eventual organization of such a bank, exclusively devoted to financing non-agricultural cooperative activities. After we have gone rather deeply into an agricultural cooperative program, investing heavily in farmers cooperatives throughout the islands, I agree that it is high time that we should begin balancing our efforts in this particular sector of our economic structure with similar efforts in the, non-agricultural sector, which is just as important, if not indeed even more important, because it, embraces the large masses of our population that remain unorganized either in their common interest as consumers or as potential contributors to industrial productivity.

You have a tremendous responsibility in your hands, for the gospel of cooperation, whether in social and civic betterment or in the industrial and business field, has yet to be sold more effectively to our public. You have yet to win active and widespread support for it, especially in the open areas, outside of the sphere of established industries, where unorganized multitudes, helplessly exposed to the fierce play of unbridled economic forces, need them most. It has yet to be felt by our people as an absolute necessity in the advancement of their common welfare, for until our masses are made deeply conscious of its value as pattern of conduct and a way of life, government help will not be of much avail.

You are, therefore, called upon to go into this tremendous pioneering work with greater zeal, to educate, inspire, and organize our people in their own self-interest and for their mutual protection towards husbanding their resources, in however limited amounts, for the greater service of the nation. The government will not fail you. It will come to your aid in every form it may be needed to strengthen your hands and to render permanent the benefits of your accomplishments. I assume the Development Bank of the Philippines will be ready to lend you a helping hand through its evolving program of financing small industries.

Perhaps, it is still your primary task at this time to keep on organizing cooperatives more extensively than so far undertaken, never failing to invigorate their growth. If because of meager facilities placed at your command, you have not gone far enough field, I should be glad to recommend or take such measures as will enable you to covet more territory and to bring more numerous groups into the cooperative movement. With your experience and example, you are in possession of all the useful information and vital data pointing to the indisputable benefits that accrue to members of cooperatives. You know how much better off those individuals and communities operating as or through cooperatives are today, compared with those acting singly or without the advantage that mutual protection and help can give.

You are all familiar with the case of the Fabrica Consumers Cooperative in Occidental Negros with average annual sales of over ₱1, 500,000; that of the Victorias Milling Credit Union, also of Negros, with more than ₱285,000 in members deposits; and that of the Philippine Iron Mines Credit Union, in Camarines Sur, with accumulated deposits of almost ₱300,000. While these are outstanding and exceptional successes, they are, nevertheless, clearly indicative of the magnitude of the resources of small people when pooled. You can well enlist the support of all the consumer's cooperatives and credit unions now in existence to rally our people to this great cause.

This convention should therefore, be able to adduce more tangible and incontestable evidences that the immediate establishment of a Philippine National Cooperative Bank, as envisioned and provided in Republic Act No. 2023, is fully warranted and that, if the law is implemented now, it will very materially assist in carrying out the basic objectives of the present administration instead of merely burdening our strained finances without any positive assurance of early gains in terms of greater productivity and prosperity for the nation. If you can show that it would be a reliable means of drawing out savings lying idle in private coffers and an incentive to thrift and to profitable cooperative enterprises among the people who would otherwise be inactive or disposed to extravagante and the thoughtless dissipation of wealth, and if through this convention, you will succeed in working out a viable program of capital formation and investment for mustering and putting to good use every centavo that the masses of our people can spare, then, by all means, let us have the proposed Cooperative Bank at once, for it may yet finance our way out of our present difficulties.

I am, of course, encouraged by the information made available to me in your efforts to promote the organization of a Bank, that there has been pledged towards the required capital stock as much as ₱264,200 by some 208 consumers cooperatives and credit unions and by several cooperative-minded individuals and that you can count on still greater potential aid coming from all 425 non-agricultural cooperatives now operating in 18 cities and 12 towns in 43 provinces, with a total membership of 43,912 cooperators. It is equally encouraging to learn that, considering the comparatively little support so far extended by the government towards non-agricultural cooperative organization, you have already succeeded in pointing the way towards tapping largely unexploited sources of capital that can be channeled for use in our economic development.

In your complex undertaking in this convention, you should consider yourselves extremely fortunate to have the benefit of the mature mind, experience, and practical counsel of such a militant and purposeful leader in the cooperative movement and in business as Secretary Pedro C. Henaez, whose department has supervision of the Cooperatives Administration Office. You are equally fortunate that we already have in the statute books Republic Act No. 2023, which constitutes the government's commitment of full financial assistance, to the extent of a P5,000,000 contribution to the proposed Cooperative Bank's capital, of which ₱1,000,000 may be made available when and; if the Bank is actually organized.

These and all the assistance that can be given to, you by all agencies of the government, especially its policy and technical panels as well as its, financing institutions, are distinct-assets and advantages already in your favor and there is nothing that should hinder you from pursuing your very laudable aims. Insofar as I am concerned, it should be enough that you realize that my program calls for the maximum alleviation and improvement of the condition of the masses of our people. I see in the cooperative movement and, consequently, in a bank devoted to its support and expansion, the means for promoting wider productivity throughout the land and for spreading abundance among, all levels of our population.

I see in them a resurgence of our native skills and their wider-employment in the total utilization of our vast, raw materials and immense qualities of by-products now largely going to waste, the profitable exploitation of our cottage

industries, a revitalization of the economy of our rural areas, and a prosperity that will lift our country towards greater stability and our people towards greater security and contentment. That is our common goal and I bid you, to reach out for it with all your ingenuity, industry, and vigor.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1959). Speech of President Garcia before the First Assembly of Philippine National Cooperative Bank. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(5), 793-796.



## **Speech of President Garcia at the Seminar on the Economic Development of Mindanao and Sulu**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the Seminar on the Economic Development of Mindanao and Sulu**

[Delivered at Xavier University, Cagayan de Oro City, January 31, 1959]

IT IS a special pleasure for me to be with you this afternoon to open your seminar on the Economic Development of Mindanao and Sulu.

I have always believed that the initiative and the motive power for fulfilling the promise latent in our country's resources must come primarily from the people themselves. This gathering demonstrates the hopeful fact that in Mindanao, the people are awake to the opportunities and are equal to the challenge of their own tremendous potential.

The rest of the country must be watching your efforts with eager anticipation. Mindanao is the second largest island in the archipelago and its three-and-a-half million people comprise fully one-seventh of our total population. The development and prosperity of so large segment of the nation cannot but give a massive boost to the economic well-being of the whole country.

In Mindanao we find a virtual storehouse of wealth for the country. This island is replete with natural resources which exist not only in great abundance but also in great diversity. The region is blessed with a rich soil and a moderate climate and, with vast territory it encompasses. Mindanao can be a veritable dynamo of progress.

The topography of Mindano makes it conducive to a variety of agricultural operations. The highlands are suitable for the development of commercial tree orchards; such as, coffee, cacao, citrus, and other fruits. In the lowlands, abaca, coconut, ramie, cotton, and vegetable crops may be grown in abundance. The Malabang area in Lanao is considered the most ideal region in the world for growing cassava. The swamplands, with adequate water control and irrigation, can be converted into rice lands which, and we have this on good authority, can rival the Central Plain of Luzon.

The large coastal area of Mindanao makes the construction of fishponds feasible and profitable. In the interior, the vast pasture lands of Bukidnon and Cotabato open up prospects for large-scale ranching.

Mindanao has the biggest concentration of timber stands in the Philippines. With moderate cutting operations, her forests are continually refurnished and prospects are that this will be one of the most important permanent resources of the region. At the same time, the excellent climate of Mindanao makes it the only place in the Philippines where rubber can be grown successfully.

Mindanao possesses rich mineral resources. Taking Surigao, alone, reports of mineral deposits found there have been most encouraging. I am informed that Nonoc Island has a potential ore reserve for iron alone of about one billion tons while nickle-bearing ore reserves have been discovered in abundant commercial quantities. Mindanao possesses the sources of power necessary to transform the minerals of the earth into the metals of industry. The situation, in fact, seems to contain all the ingredients necessary for the development of basic industry and manufacturing.

The wide variety of products which even now are being supplied in abundance from Mindanao give testimony that the promise of the region is not a remote dream but a proximate reality. Already there are food items, export crops and minerals which are being turned out in large and increasing quantities. Rice is being brought from Cotabato. Pineapples are shipped out of Bukidnon. The Agusan River is teeming with log rafts to be carted away to points

overseas. Mindanao's seaports are humming with vigorous activity, as stocks of abaca, copra, cacao, coffee, corn, cassava starch, and rubber are piled high ready for shipment. Fish is even now being airlifted to Manila. The industrial center around Maria Cristina Falls is beginning to grow every day.

All these efforts which are already impressive in their results barely touch the surface of this region's deeper and more tremendous potential.

But the fuller development of this area must depend in large part on its ability to sell its products and to integrate itself with the rest of the Philippine economy. With the greater emphasis which we hope to be giving to local autonomy, sources of local finance must assume ever-increasing importance. For this area to fulfill the high expectations which are being held out for it, there have to be great improvements in two crucial fields in Mindanao's economy. These improvements will incidentally provide better prices for Mindanao producers help to lower the cost of living, especially in urban areas, and furnish the base on which to continue to expand the gains in production that have been so far registered.

I refer to the problems of marketing and transportation and communications. Needless to say, both are intimately related. As I see it, the problems of marketing involves the collection of the growing output of the island and its conveyance to consuming centers such as Manila and Cebu. We very often observe that the products of Mindanao's soil—the cereals, the vegetables, and the fruits—exist in abundance and at low prices at the points of origin, but are found to be scarce and high-priced in places of concentrated population. Obviously the problem here is one of marketing. It seems to me that this situation is ripe for the entrance of better marketing methods and organization. We have low prices and large supplies at points of production, high prices and short supplies at points of consumption. Whoever can bring the two into closer contact with one another will be benefiting both producers and consumers, while earning a substantial reward for his efforts. If necessary, the government will get its marketing agencies, such as NAMARCO and ACCFA, to move these commodities and thereby quicken productive life in the area. I said in my state-of-the-nation message last year that NAMARCO should place greater emphasis on the marketing of domestic commodities and less on that of imported commodities. This is one area where that principle could very well be applied.

Related to this, of course, is the problem of transportation, both with other islands and within the island. In inter-island shipping, the government would do well to systematize shipping schedules and to follow the public utility principle in granting franchises so that pioneer shippers would be protected in their lines, while at the same time the public would derive the benefits which come from increasing traffic, larger cargoes, higher production, regular schedules, and lower freight costs.

With regard to land transportation on the island, we will continue with our program of building more roads, especially those that will contribute to the tapping of regions under production or the opening up of new areas of production. I must confess that this is difficult, perhaps more difficult than it would be for any other large island in our country because of its vast scope and topographical problems. But we have to maintain and accelerate our efforts with regard to roadbuilding even as we now have more than 2,000 kilometers of first class roads and 4,500 kilometers more of other types crisscrossing the island. Eventually, perhaps, if our resources permit, the southern main line of the Manila Railroad may be projected south through Sorsogon, Samar, Leyte, and finally Mindanao by a system of connecting ferries. That seems far distant now, but if we are able to mobilise the necessary foreign and domestic financing for these multi-stage ventures, then eventually Mindanao will not only have a shipping link but a land link as well, with the rest of the country.

I have touched upon but a few keystones among the many possibilities latent in the development of Mindanao and Sulu. This region is destined to play a crucial role in the progress of our country. It is in seminars such as this one now being held that the potentials, resources, and capabilities of this region may best be discussed and projected. On the part of the Administration, I pledge to you wholehearted interest and cooperation of the government in your laudable efforts.

*Source:* **Presidential Museum and Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1959). Speech of President Garcia at the Seminar on the Economic Development of Mindanao and Sulu. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(7), 1167-1169.

## **Address of President Garcia at the opening of the Fourth International Student's Festival**

**Address  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the opening of the Fourth International Student's Festival**

[Delivered at the University of the Philippines, Quezon City, February 16, 1959]

PRESIDENT SINCO, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, MEMBERS OF THE  
FACULTY, STUDENTS, AND FRIENDS:

I AM pleased to be with you on this festive occasion. Some of you may recall that only three months ago I was on this campus to deliver the opening address of the Conference of Asian Universities on Cultural Cooperation. I am told that the purpose of this celebration complements the objectives of that conference. The emergence in recent years of new independent nations in Asia has made imperative a reorientation of cultural and spiritual values in this part of the world. It seems to me that this festival dramatizes that new concept—a concept based on a mutuality of interests, closer cultural ties, and sincere understanding among Asian nations.

I congratulate the University of the Philippines and its President for the establishment and operation of an exchange scholarship program in this area. Their efforts, as evidenced by this cordial gathering, directly contribute to the evolving of solidarity among kindred peoples who were politically separated from each other for centuries as a result of colonialism.

My administration is committed to a policy of friendship with our Asian neighbors. I have taken and will continue to take positive steps toward the realization of this policy. My trip to Japan last December was made in pursuance of this objective. You will recall that the press enthusiastically supported that mission, in the realization that its success would hasten the return of normal and friendly relations between two former enemy countries. Such relations must be restored for the sake of peace in Asia as well as in the whole world. The recent state visit of Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman of Malaya was another proof of our untiring efforts to establish closer cultural and economic cooperation among Asia's free nations.

The friendship that we seek in Asia and in other parts of the world is one that is premised on mutual respect and appreciation of one another's integrity. On this ground alone does this country stand, its arms outstretched in a sincere gesture of friendship for peoples everywhere.

As I understand it, the Southeast Asia scholarship program of this University attempts to give meaning to our democratic ideals as a nation. By making possible the coming of Asian scholars to the Philippines, the program forges an enduring link in the chain that binds us in this region. In a sense it is a most effective instrument, because it deals with the minds of men. Its raw materials are ideas, its goals the liberation of the human spirit from the bondage of ignorance. Its ideal is freedom.

At this point I should remind you that our country is unconditionally committed to support the various pacts and alliances of which it is already a member. Without exception, these unions are based on sound democratic values. They represent a free and collective will to survive in a world torn by violent dissensions and threatened by nuclear annihilation. But these very same pacts necessarily place emphasis on the defensive economic, political, and military aspects. The educational and the cultural are, as it were, only incidental aspects.

Not too much emphasis has been given to the educational, the cultural, and the artistic elements of Asian life. And this is where I see the scholarship program of the University of the Philippines as a positive influence for the establishment of a more intense, more direct, and vastly more effective cultural cooperation among the peoples of Asia.

Let us not minimize the urgent role of economic or military assistance which the more highly developed countries give to the less industrially developed. In many cases such aid brings crucial relief. But material goods, no matter how profuse, soon disappear. Food and shelter; agricultural implements and machinery; ships and airplanes; dams, aqueducts, and railways are all essential commodities. They help sustain life. Yet they all pass away with time. Ideas and ideals, on the other hand, never die. Every single scholar that comes and goes through the portals of this University returns to his own country at least a potential human reservoir of goodwill and democratic ideals.

Similarly, Filipino scholars sent under the program to neighboring Asian countries become living instruments of cultural unity. In searching through the libraries of the great universities of India, Indonesia, Malaya, China, and Japan—to mention just a few—these scholars imbibe the wisdom and the culture of those ancient civilizations. They bring back to the Philippines a keener appreciation for their neighbors' culture, as well as a more tolerant outlook on other people's views.

It is good that this festival stresses the things that unite the mind rather than those which divide it. It is fortunate that in this atmosphere of cordiality, the Asian nations mix freely with the rest of the peoples of the world. For here is the unrehearsed camaraderie of men of diverse faiths and diverse colors, united by a common factor: a heritage of freedom. And because freedom is essentially indivisible, because it recognizes no barrier of place or time or color, it can unite where other factors might fail.

The great paradox of our time can be stated simply. It is this: that while man's genius continues to shrink the universe through the conquest of space, the minds and the hearts of men seem to drift farther away from one another. The issues which divide them tend to become sharper with each passing day.

On my part I refuse to believe that the cleavage is either permanent or necessary. I believe that if we search deeply into our own hearts, we would find therein enough commonness of feeling and singleness of purpose. We would discover an innate trust in the capacities of man to be an instrument of goodwill toward all of his fellowmen.

Perhaps what we need are more gatherings of the kind we have here today. Here peoples of different origins, of different languages, and of different religious views work in practical harmony toward the achievement of a common goal. Here there is no insidious rivalry, no gripping tension. There is rather a community of minds speaking in various forms but seeking a oneness of spirit.

All this is happily made possible by the Southeast Asian scholarship program of this University with, I understand, the financial support of the Asia Foundation. It is my wish to see this project expanded, if necessary, with the generous assistance of our own civic-spirited citizens. The criticism has too often been levelled at our people that they are prone to be over-dependent on the Government. Although the charge may be valid in its general application, experience has demonstrated that the opposite is true in many instances. Private initiative and private funds have been responsible for some of the most successful civic ventures in our country. No statistics, I am sure, are needed to prove this statement.

I call on our more fortunately situated citizens—on the business men, the industrialists, the financiers, the professionals—to come forward and support this scholarship program. I ask them to extend a helping hand, with vision and generosity, in order that their own country might take a rightful place of honor in the family of Asian nations. I ask them to invest in human goodwill—an investment to be reckoned not in terms of profit and loss, but in unselfish service.

The University of the Philippines has meager resources and cannot afford by itself to sustain the program. Foreign foundations and agencies have been generous in their assistance to some of our national projects. But obviously they cannot and should not be expected to carry the burden indefinitely. We have to help ourselves if we must achieve our destiny as a people.

In parting, let me congratulate the foreign students of this University, as well as all others who are responsible for this festival.

I believe they are rendering invaluable service to their respective countries, to Asia, and to the rest of the world. I join them in their prayer for world peace and genuine international understanding.

I now declare the Fourth International Students' Festival formally open.

*Source:* **Presidential Museum and Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1959). Address of President Garcia at the opening of the Fourth International Student's Festival. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(8), 1344-1347.

**Speech of President Garcia at the annual B.W.A.P. awards dinner Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the annual B.W.A.P. awards dinner**

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel March 3, 1959]

I AM indeed honored to be with you today, and happy to be able to share, with you some of my views on the country's current problems and what my administration's determined to do to meet these problems in the near future. Our paramount problem is economic in nature, and I wish to say something about the new problem for economic stabilization which has been prepared and is now awaiting congressional action.

The field of economics is not unfamiliar ground to you. As a matter of fact, the names of some of your members figure prominently in the world of business and economic debate. I can therefore speak to you with the freedom and confidence of one who knows that his words and ideas will be received with objectivity, intelligence, and sincerity of purpose.

Above the heat and dust of controversy, one inescapable fact stands clear—we have reached a critical crossroad in our long march to full development. If we do not meet the challenge with courage, and skill, we may find ourselves in danger of floundering along the way. We must not let this happen. There is too much to lose. We must rise to the occasion, shake off all vestiges of indecision that may grip us, and take up our new course with fresh determination and vigor.

The warning signals are definite enough. Rising prices unmistakably indicate the declining value and possible weakness of the peso. An inflationary situation is with us, spawned by developmental and other overspending in most sectors of the economy over many years. The international reserves has been increasingly called upon to finance the needs of our growing industries and to siphon off excessive consumer demands, so that it has now been reduced to a level which may undermine the integrity of our currency. The situation calls for comprehensive and decisive action. Such is embodied, I believe, in our proposed stabilization program.

We must bear in mind that domestic inflation and the low level of the reserve are only the external symptoms of the problem. No number of regulations and directives, and no amount of legislation can succeed in effectively checking these symptoms if they do not strike at the root causes.

The root causes are as I have already mentioned, two-fold: First, the heavy outlays needed by the public sector for economic development; and second, the substantial disbursements by the private sector for both investment and consumption. Public sector disbursements had primarily fiscal effects; private sector expenditures, monetary effects; both had eventual foreign exchange effects. Any program of stabilization, to be effective, must therefore exert a coordinated and simultaneous effect on the credit, fiscal, and foreign trade sectors.

The present situation evolved out of the heavy expenditure of our resources on economic development. Economic development and economic crisis may appear to be opposing terms and contradictory concepts. Yet, it was precisely the Heavy public and private investments in the industrialization program which brought about the bulk of the balance of payments and fiscal deficits, and which have resulted in the inflationary pressures and shortage of foreign exchange now threatening monetary stability and the continued progress of economic development.

A remarkable acceleration of economic growth occurred between 1954 and 1957, with the gross national product expanding by nearly ₱1.7 billion in that period, compared with less than ₱700 million rise registered during the previous four-year period. Agriculture expanded by 17 per cent, mining by 35 per cent, and manufacturing by a robust 41 per cent.

This growth in production was made possible by huge infusions of credit into the economic system. Capital expenditures of the public sector were financed largely through credit-supported borrowings, while those of the private sector were induced by liberal credit policies, the expansion of bank credit, the affording of tax exemptions together with a foreign exchange policy heavily biased towards industrial importation.

Inadequate revenue earnings from taxes compelled the government to finance its operations and the development program through the use of public borrowings. A large portion of that debt was incurred in the form of bonds which were bought by banks, since private savings and private entities could not or would not absorb them. The banks then sold these bonds to the Central Bank, thereby monetizing them and widening the credit base of the banking system, which development resulted in an over-expansion of credit channelled to the private sector.

This excess credit in turn generated an abnormal and effective demand for importation which created the chronic balance of payments deficit that has whittled down our international reserve. However, price inflation did not evidence itself until a little more than a year ago, owing to the fact that until then, the unsatisfied demand in excess of domestic production could largely be met by imports financed from the international reserve. Of course, such a process could not be continued indefinitely, and accordingly, when the reserve dropped to a marginal level at the end of 1957, the controls had to be tightened on credit and foreign exchange expenditures. The effects of these measures became immediately apparent on price levels, particularly of imported items. Price levels during 1958 thus were higher than in 1955, with consumer prices having advanced by 8 per cent, general wholesale prices by 11.2 per cent, and retail prices by 12.4 per cent.

A solution which would strike effectively at the root causes of our difficulties must simultaneously accomplish several things. It must mop up the excess demand for imports and reduce the basic demand for foreign exchange, in the short run; and provide for some incentives to export to secure an increase in foreign exchange earnings, in the long run. Thus, the gap in our balance of payments would be narrowed and eventually closed. On the domestic side, it must eliminate or at least minimize government borrowings by the raising of revenues from non-inflationary sources, such as taxation, the kind that is based on capacity to pay, together with a judicious apportionment of expenditures, which would not only provide the revenue for the essential needs of a growing population but also make available a non-inflationary source of financing to make it possible for the country to proceed with development under conditions of greater stability and freedom. After stability would have been achieved in the first year, a scheme of gradual decontrol could then be properly worked out.

The stabilization program which I have already presented to Congress, through the budget message which the business writers must be analyzing now, would enable us to accomplish what I have mentioned.

I ask for your comment. I invite criticism of the constructive kind. If you honestly believe the offered solution is wrong, I would appreciate it if you show me the right one. After all, it is the concern of the entire Filipino people. It is no less than the national economy that is at stake.

The stabilization of the peso is the goal. What are our chances of success? I would say they are good. But it requires determination of the entire nation. We have to have faith and vision. We have to work hard. I said that our chances of success in the stabilization of the peso are good after considering certain economic indexes definitely foreshadowing our successful emergence.

Here are some of them:

1. In industrial production, the manufacturing index of the first half of 1958 hit a new high of 168 points as compared to 149 points for the same period of 1957, taking the 1953 as basis with 100 points. The mining index shows an increase of 2 per cent in the same period.
2. Agricultural production in 1958 rose 1 per cent in volume and 5 per cent in value over 1957, In 1959 we have bumper crops of rice and corn.



3. The foreign trade in 1958 made a significant progress by cutting down the adverse balance of trade from 190 million dollars in 1957 to only 48 million dollars in 1958. The adverse balance of payments is now only 17 million dollars where it was 94 million dollars in 1957. If we can keep this rate, we shall have favorable balance of payment by the end of this year. Our exports increased by 52 million dollars and imports decreased by 90 million dollars. The United States Philippine trade in 1958 was for the first time in postwar years brought close to fifty-fifty balance.

4. Our dollar reserves in 1958 showed an increase of 6.5 million dollars from 140 million dollars in 1957 to 146.5 million dollars in 1958. The first quarter of 1959 is showing encouraging trend.

There are a number of other indexes that portend well for a successful issue for us in our fight for the stabilization of the peso. But I shall leave that for some other time. What I would like to bring out at the conclusion of this talk is that all developments and indications show that we are in the right direction towards economic stability; that we have found the correct proportion between the rate of speed of the development and the means therefor, and that, given the opportunity and the responsibility, the Filipinos, with the sympathy and understanding of our friends abroad can build up here a solid national economic structure that can withstand the stresses and tests of time.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1959). Speech of President Garcia at the annual B.W.A.P. awards dinner. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(11), 1903-1906.

## **Speech of President Garcia at the centennial commencement exercises of the Ateneo de Manila**

### **Speech of His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia President of the Philippines At the centennial commencement exercises of the Ateneo de Manila**

[Delivered at the Loyola Heights in Quezon City, March 14, 1959]

WHEN I was invited to take part in the program of this occasion, I gladly accepted because it affords me the pleasure and honor to congratulate this year's graduates of the different colleges of the Ateneo and to wish for each and all of you full measure of success in life. I also came to participate in the celebration of the first centennial of the founding of this great institution. If we take into account the fact that Ateneo won the distinction as the cradle of modern Philippine nationalism and the fact that the greatest leaders in the epic struggle for our national redemption and freedom bore the signet of Atenean education, we can truthfully say that this celebration is a historical event of profound national significance.

Indeed, the name of the Ateneo de Manila is writ large on the pages of the modern history of the Philippines. The pens that first pricked the conscience of Spain; the life offered at the altar of supreme sacrifice that the Filipino Nation might come to life; the leaders of the Revolution of 1896 who sat in the high councils of the First Republic and were among its generals and soldiers in the field; those that swelled the ranks of Nacionalistas led by the triumvirate of Osmena-Quezon-Palma that spearheaded the struggle for independence through peaceful means in the early days of the American regime; those who penned the Constitution of Malolos and he who presided over the writing of the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines—they were all bright stars in the constellation of illustrious Ateneans.

In the sombre and sanguinary trials of war and enemy occupation, Ateneans served our people in the light of their own convictions, some by ensuring national survival, others by braving the torture chamber and the executioner's in art, science, and business—all contributors to the glory, prosperity, and happiness of this nation.

God in his infinite wisdom has allotted to Ateneo the destiny of being the nursery of Philippine nationalism. That the Spanish Jesuits should have contributed so greatly to the development of Philippine nationalism, is in line with the logic of events. Because our historians tell us that when the Spanish Jesuits were allowed to return to the Philippines, they were then given by royal decree the missions in Mindanao which had formerly been under their administration, and that the Recollect friars were compensated for the loss with the parishes around Manila which were administered by the Filipino clergy. It was in defense of the rights of the Filipino priests and of their dignity which had been meanly attacked to excuse spoliation, that the great Father Pedro Pelaez petitioned the Spanish throne for the revocation of the decree, and awakened the Filipino priests, and with them all the Filipinos, to that consciousness of themselves as a nation, and of their rights in their own country, that was to lead Jose Burgos and Jose Rizal to the scaffold of martyrdom in their time, and our own generation to the testing time of sovereignty and independence.

I have sometimes wondered if the Spanish Jesuits who founded the Ateneo Municipal foresaw the result of their labours. It is another historical irony, for example, that the Jesuits have trained their own best enemies, from the time of Voltaire and Rizal to our time. But surely it is of some significance that, while the European revolutions from 1848 to 1931 demanded the expulsion of the Jesuits, even after the papal rehabilitation, four times from France, five times from Spain, and once or twice again from Austria, Switzerland, Poland, Italy, Germany, and Portugal, the Philippine Revolution's cry for the expulsion of the Spanish religious Orders was not in fact directed against the mentors of Rizal.

I am convinced that the reason for this curious reversal in the Philippines of a general trend in the Catholic world was that, in the Ateneo Municipal the Spanish Jesuits encouraged and satisfied the unquenchable thirst of the emergent Filipino Nation for an equal opportunity, without racial discrimination or obscurantist prejudice, for

knowledge and progress. It is interesting to remember that one of the causes for the expulsion of the Jesuits from the Bourbon kingdoms was their alleged “ultramontane” attitude, that is to say, their subordination of nationalist interests to the international supremacy of the Holy See. How odd, then, that in the Philippines their own school, the Ateneo Municipal, should have been the seedbed of Philippine nationalism. And yet not so odd because the nationalism which they eschewed was Spanish rationalism, not Filipino nationalism, and the Spanish Jesuits, if they were bad Spaniards, were after all good teachers. They taught Rizal and his generation that Filipinos and Spaniards were equal; that application, resourcefulness, and natural talent, irrespective of name or colour or wealth, were titles to reward; and, above all, that knowledge was an end desirable in itself and open for all.

No Filipino can understand how unattainable and yet how fascinating the *Filibusterismo*. Rizal, the social historian, describing the students of his Manila days crossing the Pasig on their way to school, singles out a distinctive group. “They walked briskly, loaded with books and notebooks, their minds turning over worriedly the subjects assigned for recitation and for homework—they were,” says Rizal, “students of the Ateneo.” One of these students is Basilio, the surviving son of the madwoman, Sisa, who has been taken under the protection of Capitan Tiago. Basilio has been studying in another school but Capitan Tiago, whose daughter Maria Clara has just become a nun against his wishes, indulges his prejudice against the friars by transferring his protegee to the Jesuit school, the Ateneo Municipal. Here, writes Rizal, Basilio found a system of instruction that, he had never believed existed, and a new world opened before his eyes. Apart from certain superfluities and puerilities, the method followed in the Ateneo filled him with admiration; and the zeal of the professors, with gratitude.”

We must, of course, make allowances for Rizal’s loyalties to his old school. To praise one’s professors is a subtle form of self-flattery. But the testimony of those who studied under the Spanish Jesuits is corroborated by the historical evidence of their achievement, and it cannot be gainsaid that the old Ateneo Municipal was a tremendous liberating force for the energies and self-confidence of the developing Filipino Nation.

The American Jesuits who replaced the Spaniards in 1921 had a less spectacular but equally important mission to perform. To the fresh generations of Filipinos growing up under the American system of separation between Church and State, the Ateneo de Manila, as it came to be called, proved that the classic disciplines of the “ratio studiorum” could produce scholars that were the match of the products of the new public schools and lay universities; and that the traditional virtues founded on the true Faith were still the best safeguards of a Nation facing the temptations inherent in political self-government, economic freedom, and social change. We lack the perspective now to make any final judgments on the educational work of the American Jesuits in the Philippines, but the record of their graduates in our present day suffices to give the assurance that the spirit of the old Ateneo Municipal survived the change of climate from the old Walled City to Padre Faura and now to Loyola Heights. But even as I speak of Ateneo’s glorious past I seem to envision its grandiose future. For this future—for, we might say, the next hundred years of the Ateneo—I hazard two important roles within the general compass of education. One is national; the other, international; but both, I suggest, are in the great tradition of the Society of Jesus.

Recall with me, if you will, the earliest days of the Society. Recall Ignatius of Loyola and his six companions vowing to make their first adventure a pilgrimage to those holy places in Asia where the Son of God chose to become man. Recall Francis Xavier dying off the coast of China, consumed with the fever of his saintly ambition to storm the fortress of Japan. Recall Robert de Nobili, who became a Brahmin and accepted the caste system and the veneration of ancestors the better to reach the heart of India. Recall Matteo Ricci, who called himself Li Ma-tou, studying the Nine Classics of China to win the cap and robes of a mandarin, and debating astronomy with the eunuchs of the Forbidden City, in an effort to convert the millions of China through the Son of Heaven. Recall, in a word, the special devotion of the Society to the peoples of Asia.

Now, race, geography, and our common condition as new and developing countries, impel the Filipino Nation more and more toward a closer community with other Asians. Already Ateneans were among the first to proclaim with me a new Asia policy for the Philippines, and Ateneans have embarked on experiments of humanitarian aid or cultural cooperation with our neighbors. But cooperation must work both ways; we cannot expect others to understand us if we do not, in our turn, try to understand them. It, seems to me that the Ateneo de Manila, under the guidance of its Jesuit community, has a duty and a mission, sanctioned by tradition, to contribute to this momentous undertaking; and that, secure in its unique command of classic western philosophies, both Greek and scholastic, it is in a perfect position to interpret Asia and the West to one another. You have already given sanctuary to the Chinese Jesuits,

persecuted by the communist tyranny of Peking. Give a home in the Philippines also to the ancient cultures and philosophies of Asia, and send forth in return the principles and doctrines of a Christian democracy. I see in the Ateneo de Manila of the next hundred years an Academy of Asia, where Aristotle and Plato may converse with the Seven Sages of the Bamboo Grove, and the lofty austerities of Aquinas may be warmed by the humility and loving kindness of Gandhiji.

In the national field, it also seems to me that the Ateneo de Manila has another traditional mission to renew, one particularly called for by the necessities of our age. The Sputnik and now the Lunik have unveiled the advantages, perhaps temporary, that Soviet scientists have gained from an intensive emphasis on scientific education. Throughout the free world the call has gone to match this progress in science, both pure and applied. Our own government has initiated a re-examination of the curriculum of our schools. Of course, we Filipinos have neither the money nor the technical training, and in fact we have neither the strategic duty nor reasons of prestige, to launch solar satellites or manufacture nuclear weapons. But science also has its gifts for peace, and especially gifts for emergent and developing countries like ours. It can teach us to grow more and better food, to exploit our mineral resources, to make the many things that a modern civilization requires for the progress and prosperity of the people. What the Soviets have accomplished in the field of scientific education, raising a population that was largely composed of illiterate peasants only one or two generations ago to a level that has produced some of the world's greatest scientists, is a challenge to our own system of free education.

The scientific tradition of Ateneo qualifies her to lead in answering that challenge. In this connection, Ateneo can derive inspiration in recalling that she produced the first Filipino botanist (Leon Ma. Guerrero) and the most eminent chemist of his day (Anacleto del Rosario); that she produced the Ateneo Museum, now vanished, whose display of Philippine natural science was known throughout the world; that she established the close community of scholars and scientists that existed when the classics were taught in the Ateneo in the brotherly shade of the Great Observatory of Padre Faura and Padre Algue.

The Society of Jesus has had its doctors, preachers, and historians: Suarez, Vasquez, Molina, Ripalda, and St. Robert Bellarmine; the eloquent Sequeri, the historians Mariana and Pallavicini. But it has also had its scientists; astronomers of the first rank, like the Italian Secchi, the German Hagen, the English Perry, and Padre Algue himself; physicists like Teodor Wulf, psychologists like Liniworsky and Marechal, biologists like Erich Wasmann. These men have proved that there is no conflict between science and religion, between faith and reason; and they and the very history of the Society of Jesus should give us reason to hope that the Ateneo de Manila will once again assume the leadership in Philippine education in science. I dare to see in the Ateneo de Manila of the next hundred years an Academy of Science side by side with the Academy of Asia, a centre of pure science and experimental research, endowed perhaps by its prosperous alumni, and attracting more and more of our youth from the exercises of forensic eloquence and athletic skill to the stricter but more useful scientific disciplines. I hope to see a new and greater scientific museum take its place beside the gymnasium, and the chapel surrounded and supported by great laboratories where man may approach God through the mysteries of creation.

The Ateneo and the Jesuits have dedicated themselves to the greater glory of God. "Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam" is their traditional battlecry. But God can be glorified in ways as manifold as the world He made and as innumerable as His creatures. He can be glorified, as Ateneans have glorified Him in the past, through the sacrifice of self for the love of country, the preaching of His Holy word, and the example of natural and civic virtue. He can also be glorified, as Ateneans may glorify him in the future, through the cultivation of understanding among nations and the love of one's neighbors, or through the study of the laws that God made for the created universe. Man finds infinity in the nucleus of the atom, and, probing with his missiles the far reaches of outer space, finds the star that shone over Bethlehem.

In conclusion, Most Reverend Fathers and gentlemen, may I express the hope and the wish that the next hundred years of the Ateneo de Manila will be even more glorious than the first, and of even greater service to the nation, to humanity, and to God.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1959). Speech of President Garcia at the Centennial Commencement Exercises of the Ateneo de Manila. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(12), 2075-2080.

## **Speech of President Garcia at the ROTC Field Day**

### **Speech of His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia President of the Philippines At the ROTC Field Day**

[Delivered at the New Luneta, March 15, 1959]

IT IS always a great pleasure to speak to an elite segment of the country's youth from whose ranks will emerge the leaders of tomorrow.

I am immensely impressed by the performance you have rendered, and I believe that the precision with which the movements are executed has been made possible by discipline.

However, it is NATIONAL DISCIPLINE, not military discipline that I wish to speak to you about for I feel that national discipline is more encompassing. It is a most potent element in our efforts at national construction and in our desire to enjoy the bounties of a free and democratic life.

I consider the subject not only important but timely and appropriate, especially in the wake of our people's efforts to accelerate the development of our country. There is vital and urgent need for such discipline in all aspects of our national existence and in all our activities as a member of the Community of Nations.

What is national discipline?

National discipline is an attitude of the mind. It is the desire, the willingness, and the capacity for progress. Essentially, it is that attitude which impels individuals comprising the citizenry of a state to submerge their personal interests for the general welfare. It is founded on sound nationalism, which, significantly, is one of the greatest single determining factors of history, and which continues to this day to be the dominating force the world over. It is the capacity to make sacrifices when necessary, to assume responsibilities. It is the faith in our oneness of purpose as a people and in our collective capacities to pave the way to better living for all.

Perhaps, nowhere in our national activity is the national spirit more suggestive than in our educational institutions which, as guardians of patriotism, not only cultivate the grit and courage of our ancestors, but also keep the youth conscious of their rights and privileges as citizens of a free country. And speaking of freedom brings to everyone the thought that the enjoyment of it and the employment of our liberties are broadest and most effective where such freedom is exercised with the corresponding responsibilities demanded of it. Hence, in our passionate love for freedom, nothing can disturb or stir us more than the slightest threat of losing it.

We, as a people, have eloquently demonstrated that we possess national discipline in times of emergency, although such quality tends to become dormant no sooner than the pressures are removed; We also tend to delude ourselves into believing that we are a great people by reminiscing past glories, so that in spite of the fact that our country is blessed with a vast natural wealth, we are still in the category of under-developed country.

Perhaps it is this wealth that induces us to live a life of ease and comfort, especially as we are under no immediate pressure to work hard for a living. Likewise, our historical development which has nurtured into us the advantages of democratic living has not quite educated us completely along corresponding responsibilities. Our middle class, which constitutes the backbone of our body politic, is not sufficiently sensitive to the affairs of the state. Apparently, it has fallen back on its true role by relinquishing to, a few leaders the collective responsibility of nation-building. Along with these, we have professional critics, whose negative thinking has rendered them incapable of constructive criticism, and certain groups whose desire for progress has been confined to their own personal gains. National discipline means positive mental dynamic attitude vibrant with invincible faith and self-confidence. A

defeatist mental attitude is suicidal. It is inimical to the interest of the State. Fill always your heart and mind with faith, hope, and love and you are an invincible man.

In our present state of development, the strengthening of the national economy calls for the highest form of national discipline.

In our setup, it is our leaders who are charged with the forging of national policies which are intended to work out the greatest good for the greatest number. Necessarily, certain groups are called upon to subordinate their personal interests for the general welfare.

I stress at this point that those at the highest level, whether in the field of business or industry, in politics or in government or in society have to make sacrifices in order for them to contribute to a most equitable distribution of our fruits of production and to make possible higher standards of life for the people. For instance, those interests that demand protection in the form of tariffs and controls, or through tax exemptions and other privileges, must improve the quality of their products, pay workers higher wages for their labor, or provide lower prices for the consumers to really deserve such protection. These are about the strongest justification for any form of support to industry in a free enterprise economy.

It is for this that I sound an appeal for national discipline. I pose it as the *supreme challenge* to every citizen of our Republic.

While to your leaders belong the actual and active demonstration or constant practice of national discipline, the initial fostering of the spirit of national discipline begins with the youth. For the development as well as the preparation of the attitudes and capacities for progress is most properly within the sphere of the education process under which you as young people start building yourselves for the future leadership of the country.

As a most essential influence, national discipline pervades all forms of human endeavors whether such be in work or play, in our home life, in our studies, in our economic planning, in our policy-formulating and law-making activities. It pervades even the heart and the very enjoyment of our liberties. In short, it must and should influence our social, economic, cultural, and political life.

As you, my young friends, develop yourselves and instill in your being a cheerful and welcoming acceptance of national discipline, I have great hopes that when you assume leadership of the country in the future, the responsibilities of providing for national stability and prosperity will be in capable hands.

Meanwhile, the present stage of our existence lays strong emphasis on the economic content of our national construction. This demands the collective responsibilities of our people which, as I said, exact a degree of sacrifice, greater political and social consciousness, which will create the atmosphere conducive to the growth of economic and other opportunities.

National discipline is the price of progress. Without it, it is impossible to provide the dynamic direction of our efforts to achieve higher levels of living. Without it, no amount of planning, law-making, or education can suffice, for even as a nation depends on its material and human resources for strength, so will such nation develop its potentialities for peace and prosperity from the degree of national discipline exercised by its people. Fortunately, we do have the Spiritual and moral forces within us needed for the development of a great nation. Our people possess the faculties that have enabled others to make their nations strong. Moreover, it is our great fortune to be endowed with a vast wealth of natural resources. Our forest reserves, mineral deposits, and other forms of natural wealth are an inexhaustible source of income that can provide more vitality and substance into our existence as a people.

In time I am sure our people will develop greater political maturity to steel them further against narrow partisan motivations which render it most difficult for our citizens to shift the true import of, or be guided properly by, existing programs for national growth. It often happens that the administration of government is hampered mercilessly by political opposition groups instead of being aided by such forces in generating a more dynamic

government. This destructive tendency results in rabid partisanship that makes many among us impervious to the needs of the country.

National discipline is not only for us whom you have charged with running the affairs of government. It is also for you and the rest of our people. The challenge is to all who are actually dedicated to the work of advancing the nation's frontiers and to those who are truly devoted to the general well-being and dignity of our people.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1959). Speech of President Garcia at the ROTC Field Day. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(12), 2080-2083.



**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia before the sixth National Congress of Sugar Producers**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
Before the sixth National Congress of Sugar Producers**

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, March 16, 1959]

FRIENDS:

I AM glad that you have chosen “marketing of sugar” as the theme of your sixth national congress. For indeed, if we do not improve on our position in the United States and on our domestic market, let alone expand to newer fields, I dare say the future of the sugar industry does not look attractive.

I intend to follow your proceedings closely and study the resolutions that you will pass and use them as guides in the charting of our sugar industry.

Price-wise, the world market offers us very little incentives. World sugar production threatens to surpass world sugar demand. And more often than not, world sugar prices have always been lower than our actual production costs. And our national financial position at the moment cannot possibly subsidize the industry to enable it to compete favorably in the free world market.

Unless we can drastically slash our production costs, increase our yields per unit area to the maximum, and at the same time bring down our production costs to competitive levels, there is very little hope for us to compete with other exporting countries blessed with more ideal climate conditions and with more advanced methods of scientific production.

The better part of wisdom and present prevailing conditions therefore would limit us to our preferred position in the United States and in our own domestic market.

However, I believe, we must first try to help ourselves. Greater consumption of domestic sugar should be encouraged. Sound marketing techniques should be employed towards this end. Our per capita consumption is still staggeringly low. The sugar industry as a whole should exert all efforts to bring domestic sugar prices realistically within the reach of the average earner, because, I for one, have never understood why our people pay more for domestic sugar than foreign consumers pay for our export production.

The bright prospects of our sugar industry lies in the American market where our products enjoy a premium. However, unless sugar bills now before the American congress are amended to provide an increase in the Philippine sugar quota, our sugar industry may well resign to a fixed allotment of 980,000 tons.

There are moves in the United States Congress to make permanent the Sugar Act of 1948 as amended. If enacted, the proposed legislation will indefinitely freeze the Philippine sugar quota under the Sugar Act of 1948 as amended in 1956.

Since United States sugar consumption increases yearly and is in fact estimated at 9,200,000 short tons by the Secretary of Agriculture for 1959, the percentage proportion of the Philippines in the total supply of the United

States annually diminishes so that, this year, it will be only 10.65 per cent and proportionately lower thereafter as against 15.41 per cent prior to 1946 and 11.74 per cent as contemplated in 1956.

There should be a concerted effort by all sectors of the industry to secure an increasing Philippine participation in the United States market, for here lies our sugar future.

The validity of our request may be supported by the following:

(1) We explicitly went on record when we signed our Trade Agreement with the United States that the establishment of a fixed amount of Philippine raw sugar to enter the United States for consumption shall not be prejudicial to increases which the United States Congress might allocate to the Philippines thereafter;

(2) When President Eisenhower approved H. R. 7030, which amended and extended the Sugar Act of 1948, he said in part:

“It was not considered feasible to recommend an increase in the Philippine quota at this time (1956). I believe, therefore, that when new amendments are being prepared at the conclusion of this act, consideration should be given to allowing the Philippines to share in increased consumption as is now provided for other foreign countries by this bill; and

(3) The reliability of the Philippines as a military ally in the free world defense set-up, particularly in Southeast Asia, depends largely on the strength and soundness of her internal and external economy. The present investment in the Philippine sugar industry is estimated at ₱1.5 billion with approximately three million people depending on sugar for their livelihood, not to mention banks, insurance, shipping, and other commercial institutions that have a large stake in the business. And there is no denying the fact that our national economy depends largely on a steady sugar income.

These arguments and many others should be marshalled and vividly presented to the United States Congress. Planters and Central operators should join cause and, in a unified move, convince members of the United States Congress of the merit and equity of the Philippines' request.

For my part, I pledge the resources of this administration behind such a move. And I have already instructed our ambassador to the United States, General Carlos P. Romulo, to leave no stone unturned in the fight for an increasing Philippine sugar quota.

At this juncture, allow me to call on all our sugar planters in particular and landowners in general. Of late, there has been rumblings in the sugar plantations regarding the treat-merit and payment of *sacada* labor. I will not pass judgment on any case.

I plead, however, for more human understanding and tolerance. Our poor brothers who toil under the hot sun planting, cultivating, and harvesting our sugar canes deserve all human understanding.

Limited in education, less fortunate in life, these brothers should participate in whatever windfall that might come across the sugar industry.

I am distressed by reports of mistreatment of *sacada* labor. Some reports, I feel, are exaggerated. I cannot believe that, in this modern age and in this decade of social enlightenment, there are still hangers on of a lost feudalistic cause. I cannot believe that there are still those brand of planters who would not be content to reap from the toils of the downtrodden laborer but would even rob him of a meager pay through usury and other forms of subtle theft.

Our arguments in America will carry more weight if we can successfully prove that the first beneficiaries of any increase in the Philippine share of United States sugar consumption will be large numbers of laborers. The United States Government favors measures which are likely to benefit the maximum number of people.

And viewed from our own local perspective and in the light of our unending struggle against an alien ideology, our nation will be better equipped to meet the enemy if the mass of our citizenry is happy and contented.

What good will a stable sugar market do for us, if the industry is wrecked by acute internal labor pains? What benefits will high sugar prices mean to a planter with unharvested furrows and burned out canefields? What good will all the wealth in the world bring if our country is enslaved by Godless ideology ushered in by grievance and discontent?

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1959). Speech of President Garcia before the sixth National Congress of Sugar Producers. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(13), 2228-2230.

**Speech of President Garcia on the occasion of the unveiling of a historical marker in honor of the late Teodoro M. Kalaw**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
On the occasion of the unveiling of a historical marker in honor of the late Teodoro M. Kalaw**

[Delivered on March 31, 1959]

MY FRIENDS:

IT IS a privilege to take part in these ceremonies honoring a courageous, unflinching leader of our people's courageous, unflinching struggle for national dignity and independence. I am grateful to the members of the Kalaw family, the provincial officials of Batangas and the city officials of Lipa for the opportunity given me to participate in this dedicatory.

There is a sense of historical fitness in the fact that these rites honoring Teodoro M. Kalaw take place while the Filipino people are engaged in what may be called the process of re-discovering their glorious and heroic past. Our men of letters and thought, our scholars, historians, and researchers of today are slowly but steadily lifting the curtain of falsehood and distortion, misinformation and prejudice which for decades has hung like a blight over our historical past. Our struggle for freedom—uninterrupted since the first invader waded ashore onto Philippine soil—has suffered particularly from such distortion. The story of that struggle has been written largely by non-Filipinos, owing allegiance less to the truth and to the facts than to the alien interests they were pledged to serve.

Since independence, however, we have delved deep into our archives and records to re-write our history in accordance with the facts, and from the point of view and perspective of our own people. We are now, as I have said, in the middle of this soul-satisfying task, and it is fitting and proper that at this point we should pause to remember and do honor to Teodoro M. Kalaw. For Kalaw, long before our independence, had devoted much of his life, labors, and genius to this enterprise of gathering and compiling between book covers the imperishable thoughts and works of our illustrious heroes, and of producing his own original histories and treatises on our revolutionary struggle and on our social and political development under Spain and later the United States.

We owe to Kalaw the *Epistolario Rizalino*, that epochal six-volume work which offers direct access to the most intimate thoughts and views of our national hero on a vast panorama of subjects, ranging from love and women to philosophy and statecraft. We owe to Kalaw *El Ideario Politico de Mabini*, *La Constitucion de Malolos*, *Las Ideas Politicas de la Revolucion Filipina*, *La Revolucion Filipina*, *Las Cartas Politicas de Mabini*, and a wealth of other works on the glorious revolutionary period of our history, and on the genius who directed and guided its politics, Apolinario Mabini. It was Kalaw who gave us the only biography of the most romantic, most appealing figure of the Revolution, the fearless Gregorio del Pilar. And, attesting to the wide range and diversity of the talents of this scholar-researcher-historian, Kalaw authored a series of tracts on political science and constitutional law which were found useful and invaluable by many who later participated in the formulation of our constitution in 1934.

Our contemporary historians and scholars will thus find in the works of Teodoro M. Kalaw a precious store-house of wisdom and information on our people's revolutionary struggle and their socio-political development under the Spaniards and the Americans. But Kalaw is more than a mere source of material, more than a competent bibliographer and historian. He is a source of inspiration, a source of emulation to our present-day historians and scholars. All his writings are invested with a proud, fierce nationalism and patriotism, an unshakeable faith in the worthiness and capacity for self-development of the Filipino which today should provide inspiration to his fellow-historians and scholars—nay,—to all his people. We cannot progress one inch toward our national goals unless we are fired with the same patriotic fervor. We must be imbued with the same indestructible faith in our capability to build up our country largely and mainly—and, if need be, solely—through our own efforts and resources. And faith and fervor must inform the work, as with the Evangelists, of those who have taken unto themselves the vital task of

wiping away the ugly stains of falsehoods and distortions from our history books in order to reveal underneath the story of our struggles in all their shining glory:

If for this alone—for the utilitarian and inspirational value of his many works—Teodoro M. Kalaw's place in our history would be secure. But this son of Lipa was a favored child of the gods, a generously-gifted, versatile man, and all his talents he laid unselfishly at the door of his country's needs. He was an outspoken, courageous, passionately nationalistic journalist, who held the editorial reins of the *El Renacimiento*, organ of the Filipino campaign for self-government, when it published the celebrated editorial, *Aves de Rapiña*, which denounced in no uncertain terms unnamed but clearly identifiable imperialistic activities of a certain official in the top echelon of the American administration. Kalaw was only in his twenties then, and the target of his trenchant satire was one of the most powerful men in the country. But the uneven odds hardly deterred this young David of Philippine journalism from hurling his sling-shot at the alien Goliath. This editorial outburst eventually led to the closure of the *El Renacimiento*, but this setback was more than offset by the enduring moral and spiritual triumph felt by all Filipinos who saw in *Aves de Rapiña* an act of courage and defiance worthy of the Cry of Balintawak. Small wonder that Philippine journalism looks back on this incident as the high water mark of its history.

Teodoro M. Kalaw was a parliamentarian, a member of the Philippine Assembly from 1910 to 1913 representing the third district of Batangas, of which Lipa was—and still is—a part. He served with high distinction in the legislature, becoming one of the closest collaborators of the number one Filipino in the government at that time, then Speaker Sergio Osmeña. After his term, Kalaw remained in the Assembly as its secretary, up to 1916 when he was appointed director of the Philippine Library and Museum. He held this office briefly for one year, but he returned to it in 1929 and spent the remaining 10 years of his life in the company of the books and the historical memorabilia that he loved so much. It was during his stewardship of the Philippine Library that Kalaw enjoyed the most productive and prolific years of his literary life, turning out his books and pamphlets, watching solicitously over the nation's historical treasures and cultural relics, and building up the library into the center of research and learning that it was meant to be.

Teodoro M. Kalaw was furthermore an imaginative and efficient administrator, who left the indelible imprint of his talents in this field in the reorganization of the executive branch of the government. The basic structure and main outlines of the network he helped to erect have been preserved to this day. Former President Osmeña is our authority for the assertion that Kalaw “was especially notable in the preparation of two important measures”—one of which was the reorganization of the Executive Departments during the regime of then Governor-General Francis Burton Harrison. Under the Departmental Reorganization Law which he helped to formulate, Kalaw himself served as the first under-secretary of interior and subsequently as secretary. Never forgetting the ultimate objective of all Filipino efforts during those colonial days, he also lent his administrative talents to the organization and operation of the Philippine Commission on Independence, of which he was executive secretary and chief adviser. This body was the nerve center, the general headquarters of the ceaseless Filipino campaign to achieve immediate, absolute, and complete independence.

And finally, this man of versatile excellence, so used since early school days to perfection, who wore the mantle of success and leadership so easily and naturally, of course had to bring home as his bride none less than the prettiest girl in the country, the queen of the first carnival, Purita Villanueva. In the field of romance, in the affair of the heart, he strove, as in all his other endeavors, for nothing less than perfection. His bride had to be a queen, no less, and young Kalaw's happiness must have been complete when it was a queen indeed who pledged to share his dreams and disappointments, his hopes and reverses, his joys and his sorrows, at the church of Molo, Iloilo, in 1910.

This, then, is the measure and stature of the man whom we are gathered here today to honor and remember, on the 75th anniversary of his birth. His family, his relatives, and this town of his birth and boyhood have every reason in the world to be proud of him. But this sense of pride they can no longer confine to themselves. They must share it with the rest of the country, the rest of the Filipino people, for Teodoro M. Kalaw now belongs to the nation. He takes his place among those revered Filipino patriots whose life and works will forevermore serve as an ideal and inspiration for all the people, to goad and guide them along the difficult road to national progress and greatness, to reassure them at every turn and before every barrier that the Filipino is the equal of any man, and that there are no limits to the glory and achievements to which he may confidently aspire.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1959). Speech of President Garcia on the occasion of the unveiling of a historical marker in honor of the late Teodoro M. Kalaw. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(15), 2618-2621.

## Speech of President Garcia on the occasion of the National Language Day Celebration

Speech  
of  
**His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia**  
**President of the Philippines**  
**On the occasion of the National Language Day celebration**  
**commemorating the 171st birthday of Francisco Balagtas**

[Delivered at Panginay, Bigaa, Bualacan, April 2, 1959]

GANITO ring araw, isang daan at pitumpu't isang taon (171) na ang nakararaan, ay isinilang sa nayong ito ang isang makatang nagputong ng luwalhati sa pa-nulaang tagalog—si Francisco Balagtas.

Alin mang panitikan at ano mang wika ang umangkin kay Francisco Balagtas, ang panitikan at ang wikang iyan ay makapagmamalaki, sapagka't sa *Florante at Laura* ay nakahabi ang lahat ng damdamin na nagbubunsod sa isang bayan upang ipaglaban ang kanyang kalayaan, ang kanyang katubusan, at ang kanyang pagsasarili.

Hindi naging bago kailan man sa Pilipino ang giting, ang pagkamakabayan, ang pagka-uhaw sa kalayaan. Nang lumagpak sa tubig sa dalampasigan ng Maktan ang unang sagisag ng pananakop—si Magallanes—ay naisulat sa dahon ng kasaysayan ng kampilang Pilipinong hawak ni Lapu-Lapu ang katutubong pagmamahal ng mga kayumanggi sa kalayaan.

Ganyan ding layunin, ganyan ding paninindigan ang ibinandila ng panulat ni Francisco Balagtas.

Ginising ni Francisco Balagtas ang kalooban ng bayan gaya nang sabihin ni Florante ang ganito:

“Kahiluha't sama ang ulo'y nagtayo,  
At ang kabaita'y kimi't nakayuko,  
Santong katuwira'y lugami at hapo,  
Ang luha na lamang ang pinatutulo.”

Nguni't sa gitna ng mga kalupitan na tinitiiis ng Pilipinas noon, ay hinulaan ni Balagtas na sa tulbng ng Diyos ay gigisingin ang giting ng mga Pilipino na minana kina Lapu-Lapu, Diego Silang, Francisco Dagohoy, Pedro Ladya, Soliman, at iba pa. Sinabi ni Balagtas sa pamamagitan ni Florante ang ganito:

”Datapwa't sino ang tatarok kaya  
Sa mahal mong lihim Diyos na dakila?  
Walang mangyayari sa balat ng lupang  
Di may kagalingang inyong ninanasa.”

Limampung taon pagkatapos masulat ang *Florante at Laura* ay ginising ng Diyos ang bayang Pilipino. Sa Balintawak ay umugong ang sigaw ni Bonifacio. Nagbangon ang bayang Pilipino, at ang dugong dumilig sa ating lupain ay nagbigay ningning sa bandila ng ating lahi.

Si Bonifacio ay bayani ng tabak; si Balagtas ay bayani ng panulat, ng tula, ng panitikan at ng wika. Karapatdapat ang pag-gunitang ito sa magiting na makata ng wikang pambansa, sapagka't may utang tayo sa kanya sa pagkakaroon natin ng kalayaan.

Mga kababayan, nakikiisa ako sa inyo sa pagdakila sa makatang ginu-gunita natin ngayon sa kapakanan ng tula, ng panitikan, at ng wika.

Garcia, C. P. (1959). President Garcia's speech on the occasion of the National Language Day celebration commemorating the 171st Birthday of Francisco Balagtas delivered at Panginay, Bigaa, Bulacan, Thursday, April 2, 1959, at 11:00 a. m.. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(15), 2621-2622.



## **Speech of President Garcia at the University of the Philippines**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the 45th General Commencement Exercises of the University of the Philippines  
where he was conferred the Degree of Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa**

[Delivered on April 7, 1959]

I ACCEPT in all humility the honor invested upon me by the University of the Philippines on this solemn occasion of the commencement exercises in honor of the thousands of graduates of the different colleges of this great institution of learning. I am deeply grateful for the recognition of my humble services to the nation, for which reason, this honorary degree has been ordained in my favor by the University of the Philippines. I would be lacking in candor if I did not make an open public confession that this honor has fired my heart with new and fresh determination to dedicate the best that I am and the best that I have at the Altar of national service to help make our beloved country a real home of the brave and the free and a patria worth living for and fighting for.

To the graduates who this day will receive the diploma that ushers them into the career as professional, I wish to extend to you and to your loved ones my warmest felicitations for your graduation and my best wishes for success in full measure for each and every one of you. Our motherland, like a true mother, has a deep concern in your career as professionals. Your success is her joy and she has a tear for each one of your failures. As professionals you have become members of the great army of nation builders and the future of the Philippines will mainly depend upon the *spirit* that inspires you as contributors in the great task of nation-building.

In this Cyclopean and continuing task of nation building we found ourselves at the end of the last century engaged in shaking off the yoke of Spain. With the pen of Rizal, the sword of Bonifacio, and the leadership of Aguinaldo, we touched the summit of independence but soon fell back to become a political ward of America. During the first four decades of this century, we kept on with unrelenting vigor with our fight for freedom in the fields of peace and by means pacific. We built the ramparts of freedom in the heart of our citizenry. We established democracy's bastions in our institutions, in our Constitution, in our very way of life. In 1946 America in an unprecedented act of history voluntarily granted us independence.

After this our nation building took a new orientation. Confronted by the tremendous responsibility of maintaining a stable independent government, faced by the wreck and ruin of the most devastating world war, the nation undismayed rose equal to the task. We started the era of national reconstruction and rehabilitation. We can proudly claim that in one decade we wiped out the vestiges of war's devastations with generous aid from America. There were heartaches, mistakes, recriminations, and even frustrations, but after all is said and done, we scored and achievement in nation building that won the admiration and respect of the world.

In 1954 the chapter of reconstruction and rehabilitation ended and the era of economic and social development opened. Right now we are in the midst of building a national economic structure designed to afford each one of the 23 million Filipinos not only economic stability but also full enjoyment of freedom and opportunity to rise and grow in a regime of justice, liberty, and democracy. Do we have the essential elements of success in this grand program of economic and social development? There are two essential elements—productivity of the people or manpower and natural resources. Divine Province has generously blessed us with an abundance of natural resources. Let us generate the man-power to fully utilize these resources.

Our educational institutions can do this job.

At this moment, we have before us the finest specimen of them among those who graduated from the different colleges of the University of the Philippines this year. Thousands of others have graduated from other institutions of learning. Of course our man-power must acquire the necessary skill. It must have the know-how, the technology.

But this is not all. To me it is more important that man-power must have the right mental and emotional attitude—the right spirit. There is no greater driving power to the man behind the plow or wheel than his love for work. Lone after the man who works for a mere day's wage quit, the man who works with the conviction and the vision that this work contributes to the nation's abundance of life besides that of his family perseveres in the job. In nine cases out of ten the man in our industries or farms who starts his job with faith and hope of success, actually succeed. In other words, the man whether a manager or a laborer whose credo is positive thinking, whose imagination is creative, and whose heart glows with a positive desire to do good and right to his fellowmen, has a definite place in the book of success. I warn the graduates that negative thinking, that is thinking inspired by envy, fear, doubt, mistrust, or hatred inevitably leads to failure in life. He already lost his fight who starts with a fear or a doubt.

In memory of this occasion that I address to the cream of the youth of the land, permit me to recapitulate some cosmic verities: that like begets like; that you always reap what you sow; that you get out of life what you put into it. These are eternal laws of life the observance of which brings its own reward and the violation of which automatically brings its punishment or retribution. Under these laws, therefore, the nation builder who works with faith and love and vision is always the anointed man of Destiny. But in the grand program of the social and economic development of the Philippines, it is also important that we be inspired by the right principle and that we aspire to the right objective. Under what principles and for whom then is all this program of economic and social development? The program derives its validity and vitality from the fundamental principle of democracy that states or governments were made for man and not man for the State. Consequently the welfare of the people is the supreme purpose of government. States can stand only when the people are free and happy. Governments can endure only when the masses of the people are contented. Thus the tears of misery and the groans of starvation and the sufferings of the victims of social injustices and oppression undermine the foundations of a State. Thus in the social service item of this grand program, emphasis is given to education, health, welfare, and labor to make life enjoyable to the masses of our people among whom are the poor and the lowly and the underprivileged.

The supreme objective is the welfare of the masses of our people—the 23 million Filipinos of this generation. Thus, whatever benefits or fruits may be achieved by the development of our industries, the expansion of our agriculture and the utilization of our natural resources, and whatever opportunities or services may be generated by our achievements in our economic and social development efforts should be shared in as equally as possible to lift up all regions of the Philippines, and all social classes of the Filipinos. This in a nutshell is the concept of our social and economic development program for which the government spent ₱612.2 million in 1955, ₱785 in 1956, ₱803.7 in 1957, and ₱744.6 in 1958, and ₱727.1 in 1959 and propose to spend ₱847.1 in 1960.

We cannot build our economic and social structure for the benefit of a few big corporations only to make the rich richer and the poor poorer. We cannot build an economic edifice that would concentrate power, wealth, or privileges in some favored social classes or regions like Manila. If the Philippines must develop economically, socially, and politically, such development should be symmetrical so as to allow all the social classes and all the regions of the Philippines to share equitably in the benefits and blessings and opportunities generated thereby.

Accordingly, we must halt the present tendency to concentrate all in Manila and suburbs. It is borne out by statistics that the greater bulk of our industrial development is here in the area called greater Manila. The banks and the nation's financial institutions are here in Manila. Statistics in the Central Bank show that 83% of the dollar quota holders among whom are allocated roughly one-half billion dollars every year for commerce, trade, and industries are living in the area of greater Manila. Records in the Bureau of Internal Revenue show that 80% of the revenues from taxes are collected in greater Manila. These facts indicate a situation where 80% of the nation's wealth and monetary circulation are concentrated in an area inhabited by 13% of our people whereas only 20% of the wealth and monetary circulation of the country are thinly distributed in rural areas where 87% of the Filipinos are living. By the same token we get the inference that of our monetary circulation which now amounts to 1 billion, 600 million pesos—roughly 1.3 billion circulate in Manila among some 1.7 million people, whereas roughly 300 million only circulate in the provinces. Hence we have the paradox that while all the bankers and banking institutions, and Manila affirm by their books that there is an excess of monetary circulation in the country, in the provinces, however, the people feel the hardship of money shortage.

Such a monstrous disparity in development cannot be tolerated. We must act immediately to check such a tendency. Such an imbalance breeds many social problems. It causes labor in the provinces to converge into Manila and

produce here the problems of congestion of population, while at the same time, it creates depletion of competent and skilled labor in the provinces. Such an imbalance in development produces a sense of frustration in the rural areas which have gotten the impression that all these efforts of the government in developing the economy of the country have been done only for the benefit of Manila. They begin to feel that all these raising of new revenues for economic development and social services have been done mainly for Manila neglecting the greater portion of the country where 20 million Filipinos expect to share in the opportunities and benefits of an economically developed Philippines.

Furthermore, this imbalance in development is contrary to the economy ordained by nature. For instance, Nature decrees that the northern parts of the Philippines be best suited to the production of tobacco; to that region therefore rightly belongs the establishment of cigarette and cigar manufacturing industries. Southern Tagalog, the Bicol provinces, and the Visayas are the regions designated by Nature for the productions of coconut and abaca and sugar. To these regions therefore rightly belong the manufacturing industries and centrals of these products. Nature has chosen the rich island of Mindanao as the ideal place for the production of all the principal exports of the country and the tremendous amount of iron and other mineral deposits and to it rightly belongs the corresponding industries to develop these natural resources. Statesmanship therefore, taking a cue from natural economy, should ordain that the different industries of the country should be distributed among the different regions of the country and thus distribute equitably the fruits of our economic development. It may be said also in passing that in case of war, God forbid: the resistance and fighting power of the nation will not end by the destruction of the industries in Manila. It is good for prospective invaders to know that if they must subdue the Philippines, they have to do it over the dead bodies of 23 million Filipinos and not only of 3 million Manilans.

I believe it bears repetition to state here again that our economic plan is to develop here a well-balanced agro-industrial economy. Since the Philippines is essentially an agricultural country, our destiny is anchored in the rural areas. But it is equally true and important that if we must put to work the skilled men and professionals who graduate from our universities by the thousands every year, we must develop our industries as fast as we can. In big cities and industrial centers let us establish our heavy industries but must never neglect the development of cottage and home industries and middle-sized industries where we can put to work the rural population. The concentration of money and power that goes with the establishment of heavy industries must be counterbalanced by organization of intelligent and patriotic labor. It is also envisaged that the organization of cooperatives in rural areas be realized to stimulate community development on the principal of collective self-help.

Ladies and gentlemen, for four centuries we were under foreign domination. Through hundreds of revolts led by inspired men in different regions of the country, we attempted to regain our freedom. We failed. Finally about the end of the last century we recaptured national unity. The mighty pen of Rizal and the great actions of Bonifacio, the leadership of Aguinaldo, and the statesmanship of Quezon and Osmeña brought about the national unity which won for us our independence in 1946. Since then we became masters of our destiny. We are now the architects of our own gloom or glory. Across the centuries of trials and tribulations we developed a rugged national spirit that would triumph even in death. It triumphed through the martyrdom of Rizal. It conquered through the failure of the Revolution of 1896. It triumphed through the fall of Bataan and Corregidor. It conquered through the four years or ruthless occupation by invaders. With that national unity and that national spirit anchored in our faith in the divine guidance of God, we cannot fail in establishing for the present generation and for the generations of Filipinos yet sleeping in the womb of Time, a patrimony of economic stability, social security, and abundance of life.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1959). Speech of President Garcia at the 45th General Commencement Exercises of the University of the Philippines where he was conferred the Degree of Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, at 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 7, 1959. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(16), 2872-2876.

**Speech of President Garcia at the Commencement Exercises of the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the Commencement Exercises of the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio**

[Delivered on April 19, 1959]

ON this auspicious occasion of your graduation I share with your joys and jubilation and that of your loved ones derived from the spiritual satisfaction of a job well done. With these congratulations goes my felicitation to the members of the faculty and to your Alma Mater who, I am sure, are proud of you and have high expectations of you. The nation and the Republic who spent thousands of pesos for your education are happy that at long last you have made yourself competent and qualified to serve in the highest mission of life—defense of country. You are now heroes in the making who preserve and add to the glorious tradition of Gregorio Del Pilar, Antonio Luna, Vicente Lim, Tomas Claudio, and many other glorious names who wrote in astral fire in the firmament of fame: “the Filipino soldier, bravest in the world.”

I was greatly impressed by the precise and disciplined performance put up by the Cadet Corps of this great institution which in the words of a great Filipino (Sergio Osmeña) is the foundation stone of our entire military establishment.

To a civilian—and no less than the constitutional Commander-in-Chief of the nation’s Armed Forces himself—nothing can be more impressive in peace time than a smart passing in review by the cadets of this Academy who are being trained for leadership in the military. To me the precise timing, the perfect and synchronized execution of every movement of the participating units are but a manifestation of the basic mental attitude which has been developed in every individual cadet—the attitude which impels him to subordinate his own interest to the interest of the unit to which he belongs.

In other words, my friends, military discipline is the unmistakable mark of the PMA cadet; and rightly so, because every cadet upon completion of his course is expected to render service in an organization where his personal interests are subordinated to the interests of the country. It is in this school where our tradition of individual liberty is reconciled with a strict disciplinary system, for while military discipline may be strict and exacting, it is not blind subservience to authority. Rather, it is the realization of each cadet that the requirements of the service he has chosen can be met only when every individual member accepts wholeheartedly the direction and guidance of lawfully constituted authority.

Sometime last month I had occasion to stress before a fine group of ROTC cadets the vital and urgent need for national discipline as a *sine qua non* for national progress. I said then, as I say now, that national discipline is not only for us who have been charged with running the affairs of government. It is also for the various groups comprising our society. In fact, national discipline should apply to all without exception.

In my talk I dwelt lengthily on the economic aspect of the subject. Today, I propose to define the role of the military in fostering or enhancing the development of national discipline in this country. As I have said, national discipline is the price of progress, and considering our present state of development, the strengthening of our national economy will, indeed, call for the highest form of discipline among our people.

My friends, I have defined national discipline simply as the nation’s desire and capacity for progress with that attitude which impels individuals comprising the citizenry to submerge willingly their personal interests for the general welfare. In the fostering of this form of discipline, you as members of the military establishment, steeped as you are in an even more exacting form of discipline, play a very important role.

I said important role because national discipline is built by example, and the disciplined life of an Army officer manifested in different acts of practical living in the community he lives attracts many more emulations than a hundred speeches. Deeds of righteousness, justice, integrity, and patriotism work miracles in inspiring and strengthening civic consciousness and social discipline. Thus ancient Rome and ancient Greece were great and mighty when their men by their lives set the example of bravery, love of country, and stoic adherence to justice and profound faith in the Almighty and in the infallibility of His eternal cosmic laws. But Rome and Greece declined and ultimately fell when their men loosened up their fidelity to the principles and ideals of life, yielded to the lure of materialistic life, and threw to the winds individual and social discipline. Babylon, Egypt of the Pharaohs, ancient Israel, Carthage have the same story of national rise and fall. If you are not religious minded and do not read the Bible which contains the most authentic history of ancient nations and peoples of a thousand centuries, then let these great historical saga I just mentioned inspire the graduates of this Academy to live exemplary lives. The life of one man alone too often changed the history of a nation or even of the world. The accumulated influence of the lives of the graduates of this institution is certainly a vast factor in the building of national discipline so necessary to strengthen our democracy.

It is one of the tenets of democracy that the government should be a government of laws and not of men. But let it not be forgotten that no government can rise higher than the quality of men that run or man it. Hence the need of model or exemplary lives. Many of you will be leaders in the regular Army. Yours will be the sacrosanct duty of defending the national sovereignty, national integrity, honor, peace, and freedom of our country. Too often your duty calls for the supreme sacrifice of life as your illustrious predecessors did so heroically. This requires the highest type of manhood. Some of you will be the leaders in the Philippine Constabulary charged with the duty of maintaining peace and order, defending the rights and liberties of citizens, and enforcing the laws of the country. This also calls for valor, strong moral fibre, and uprightness. Again this requires the highest type of manhood.

So at this juncture of our national development we need less of laws and more of men—men of principles, men of moral courage, loyal, upright, God-fearing, and faith-inspired men to enforce the laws of this Republic and perpetuate the institutions of a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

But naturally you will ask what are the qualities that the highest type of manhood should have? Young men, the answer is embodied in all the teachings of Christ—faith, hope and love, but the greatest of them is love. Perhaps to the soldier what he needs most is faith. He must believe deep in his soul and visualize in his creative imagination that he can be what he in his heart desires to be; that he can do what he believes in his heart he can do. He must fill his soul with the faith that a good deed, an honest deed, a kind deed in accordance with the infallible cosmic law of cause and effect will always have its reward in the same way that a wrong, a lie, or a dishonesty will infallibly have its retribution. The miracles wrought by Jesus with his faith are recorded in the indestructible Tablet of Time. He restored dead Lazarus to live with faith; he commanded the elements with his faith. With faith he restored back to health and strength the thousands of those afflicted with incurable ailments. Jesus himself said this about the might of faith:

“Verily I say unto you, if ye have faith and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, be thou removed, and be thou cast unto the sea, it shall be done. And all things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.”

I venture to add that the power of faith is not only given to Messiahs like Christ. It is given to men made of common clay who abide and labor with the eternal cosmic laws. It was man’s faith also that made possible the discovery of electricity, radio, television and the atomic science, and of the many other wonders of Science. It was the nation’s faith and its leaders that made possible the crossing of the Red Sea and the Jordan, and Rizal’s supreme sacrifice at the Luneta, the Cry of Balintawak, and the epic stand at Bataan and Corregidor.

I laid this special emphasis on faith because in these materialistic times the faith of youth is being undermined every day in the press, radio, and television by negative thinking. The mind of the youth is being assailed every day with scandals and gossips, intrigues, lies, character assassination, stories of envy, jealousy, greed, and other iniquities. If your mind is fed every day with this stuff, you will eventually acquire a negative view of life, hopeless, faithless, loveless.

On the contrary, if you fill and thrill your heart with elevating stories of success, of great dreams come true, of the living romances in art and science wrought by faith and love, of great luck or fortunes which come as reward for acts of goodness, justice, loyalty, or honesty; of glory and laurels won by heroic men for their heroic achievements inspired by love of country or fellowmen, you are actually stockpiling in your soul positive thoughts, the stuff of which mighty faith, invincible hope, and all-triumphant love are made. These are the materials that should go into the building of our national character. These are the stuff with which are woven that wondrous fabric we call man's true success.

Officers, my injunction therefore to you is: fight unrelentingly the influences of negative thinking. Fill your mind with positive thinking every minute of your life and believe in your heart that without fail you shall always gather abundant harvest out of the good seeds you have sown in the field of life. By the eternal law ordained by God, that you shall always reap what you sow, I assure you that on the wings of faith and hope and love, you can and you will rise to the sublime heights of your aspiration.

Gentlemen, all of these attributes of the highest type of manhood I am talking about can be developed by any man and more easily by disciplined men like the graduates of this famous Academy only in an atmosphere of freedom. Freedom is of the essence in character building.

It is therefore of the utmost importance that as young leaders in our national defense you should dedicate yourselves to the cause of perpetuating democracy in our country—the kind of government that enthrones human freedom as the supreme principle. Let there be a common determination among all Filipinos to defend our democratic way of life against all threats of a godless ideology, the ideology that undermines the faith of men and nations and the love of man to his fellowmen. Let our national institutions build up ramparts against ideology which cancels the human liberties and the inalienable rights of citizens and would convert them into herded peons of a totalitarian state. Let us build bastions against the influence of an ideology that tramples upon the principle of sovereign equality among nations and sanctions the rule of might over right to justify its aspiration for world domination. Let us build the national fortress to protect our own ideology which is the fountain head of our life, liberty, and happiness. Anchored as it is to our sublime faith in God who with His infinite justice, His infinite love, and His eternal truth, governs the universe, we know that no worldly power can destroy it; we know that it will “endure with the pulsings of Eternity.”

Finally, I wish to address the graduating class and, through them, the Armed Forces of the nation.

Closely akin to discipline is loyalty. The loyalty of graduates to their class and their loyalty to their Alma Mater are very human sentiments that have been recognized since time immemorial. Loyalty to your class manifests your desire for identity within the corps of professional soldiers. It is through this that you recall with a smile, your favorite *plebe*, your favorite *yearling*, and your favorite instructor. Your loyalty to your Alma Mater is a clear demonstration of your gratitude to the institution that molded you into what you are and gave you the potentials to be something and somebody in your chosen profession. These are sentimental loyalties. Sentimental in the sense that through them you joyfully retrospect on your formative years. You treasure the ties of friendship with your juniors, your seniors, and your instructors. You cherish the memory of the nooks and corners of the school compound.

These loyalties you must have.

It is against this backdrop that I shall now give you what I consider as my special message to you all of your graduation. My message is:

After you make your oath of office as second lieutenants in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and your name is written down in the rolls of the Armed Forces Officers Corps, remember that you accept, you have to accept, a higher form of loyalty. Loyalty that must transcend those dictated by personal sentiment—this is your loyalty to your country.

Should you in later years come face to face with a problem of reconciling loyalties, either between your class, your Alma Mater, the Armed Forces, and your country, there should be no question. There is only one honorable choice,

a choice dictated by the very tenets on which your institution and all democratic institutions stand—and this choice must be in favor of your country.

There are graduates of this institution who, as against life itself, have chosen the country. Their names are now carried in the roll of honor of your alumni dead.

As your Commander-in-Chief, I urge you to bring this message with you wherever the Service may send you. Let it stay with you and let it form a part of your beliefs. For it is, when your honor dictates the truth of this conviction, that your cadet prayer has been partly answered—that you “have aspired to live above the level of common lives.”

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1959). President Garcia’s speech at the Commencement Exercises of the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio, Sunday, April 19, 1959. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(17), 3103-3108.

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia before the Association of Philippine Broadcasters**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
Before the Association of Philippine Broadcasters  
at a dinner held in his honor**

[Delivered at the Guevara Compound, Parañaque, Rizal, May 5, 1959]

MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE BOARD  
MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF  
PHILIPPINE BROADCASTERS, LADIES  
AND GENTLEMEN:

TO PARAPHRASE a familiar statement that we sometimes hear on the radio, I would like to start by saying that, “The views you are about to hear are purely the opinions of the speaker himself,” but I am sure they also reflect the opinions of the radio and television representatives present here tonight. I am sure we all have this in common. I am as interested in the radio and TV industry as you are:

In fact, I would like to take this occasion to thank the radio and TV stations which have so graciously covered my speeches in the interest of public service. I appreciate this very much, not only from a personal point of view, but also because it is a fine demonstration of civic spirit and a keen consciousness of the need to keep the public informed. This civic spirit and awareness of the public is a fine and admirable thing, and it is to the lasting credit of the Association of Philippine Broadcasters that its members are well known for these rare qualities.

As your President, Mr. Eugenio Lopez, Jr., has said, the APB can be a very potent force in the civic and cultural life of our country. I agree with him completely. The APB is a powerful factor in for community simply because radio and television in themselves are powerful factors and forces in our lives.

Those of you who went out of your way last Friday to visit with me for a while in Malacañang will recall what I said at that time, that radio and television broadcasting is one of the mightiest factors in the moulding of public opinion and in the development of correct, constructive, and creative thinking among our people. Because of this tremendous power of broadcasting, those who wield this power in turn have a grave responsibility. They have the responsibility to wield this power for the good of the people. Because they have the power to mould public opinion, they also have the corresponding responsibility to direct that public opinion to channels that are constructive and creative. Because radio and television reach the homes in such a direct and intimate manner, the men of radio and television likewise have the responsibility of helping, to guide the minds of the youth of the land, guiding them, towards practical idealism, towards genuine nationalism, towards: their ultimate destiny as the future generation that must carry on the work we ourselves are now undertaking and which is part of our national heritage. The government; and I, personally, are very conscious of this vital role that the broadcasting industry plays in our national life. I feel that it is a role as important as that played by the press. Certainly, broadcasting is an indispensable and integral part of freedom of speech, without which, freedom itself as a basic and all-embracing term would not have any significance at all.

In fact, if I may digress for a while to express my own personal impressions, I feel that if radio is just as valuable and important as the press, there is no reason why radio should not be accorded the same regard as the press enjoys. In all official activities, coverages, and even in the little things, like, for example, making it possible, for the APB to have it's own clubhouse or center here in Manila, in much the same way as we have the National Press Club and



similar organizations, in all such matters, I feel that radio and therefore it's own organization—your Association of Philippine Broadcasters—must enjoy the full support of the people and the Administration.

I have said earlier that, to me, radio and TV have a special significance. I feel a special attachment to this organization that you have formed and established. In a way, I think I was indirectly and partially responsible in bringing about the birth of the APB, for it was at my instance two years ago that a call was issued to all responsible broadcasters to get together and set up standards of broadcasting which would be designed to elevate their own industry. At the time, the main objective was to keep their airplanes clean, for that was the hottest stage of the political campaign of 1957. Radio then was very much in the electoral battle, and we were all concerned with making sure that what was broadcast would be true, decent, and constructive.

And so, that was the only purpose of an organization at that time. But you who now compose the APB must have sensed at that time the opportunity to derive something bigger and more permanent; from that one individual project. As your own president has said, "this called for vision and courage." And if I may echo his words, the men of the APB have certainly proved themselves men of vision and courage.

It only remains now for you to transmit that vision and courage to the whole of your industry. It is your responsibility to keep intact your own idealism, to keep sacred your code of ethics, to maintain and constantly keep elevating the standards of broadcasting and telecasting in the Philippines so that it may rank as among the most outstanding, among the most admirable, among the best in the world.

It has been my personal privilege to have been able to participate in your pioneering in this organization. I have constantly observed its progress during your national conventions in Cebu and in Cagayan de Oro. And tonight, it seems almost as if by destiny, I am again a participant in this third year of your organization. I consider this a distinct privilege. And I shall hope to be able to continue to observe and perhaps take part in your future progress, whether I remain in the public life or not, and I shall watch that progress with keen interest and eagerness, knowing that your organization cannot help but succeed and that, because of the bold leadership and imaginative thinking of all who compose this Association, I am confident that the whole nation will finally recognize and acclaim the great contribution to the country by the Association of Philippine Broadcasters.

Lastly, may I repeat that it is my fervent hope that this Association will lead in the formation of alert, intelligent, creative, and positive thinking among our people.

The nation dreams of making the Philippines a model democracy in this part of the globe with the establishment of prosperity and economic stability enjoyed in freedom and in honor. The nation dreams of building a national economic structure where every citizen of this country partakes in terms of abundant life. The nation dreams to contribute its best and utmost to the cause of world peace. Let the Association of Philippine Broadcasters get behind these legitimate aspirations of the nation and let each broadcasting center be a giant dynamo to spark progress, growth, achievement, and success.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1959). Speech of President Garcia before the Association of Philippine Broadcasters at dinner held in his honor at the Guevara Compound in Paranaque, Rizal, Sunday evening, May 24, 1959. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(22), 4078-4020.

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia at the formal launching of this year's fund campaign of the Community Chest**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the formal launching of this year's fund campaign of the Community Chest**

[Delivered at the Malacañang Social Hall, June 1, 1959]

I SHOULD state at the very outset that the joint program of the Community Chest and the eighteen Red Feather agencies affiliated to it in a most praiseworthy way, has been the heart these past years of a unique humanitarian service.

It has also, from year to year, renewed our faith in the constancy of goodness and charity as virtues of mankind.

If for nothing else, therefore, we meet here this afternoon to pay just tribute to community spirit, public welfare, and charity, all of which the Community Chest and the Red Feather agencies have time and again translated into various deeds.

The beneficiaries of those deeds are the less fortunate members of our society who, but for the foresight and the noble spirit of those who have always supported the Community Chest, might never experience normal life.

In a large sense, however, it is their families, the neighborhoods and towns in which they live, and ultimately the country itself who are the real beneficiaries. Generosity and compassion were never so small and so limited that they did not touch an entire society. The Community Chest program, like every gentle thought and deed in man's experience, will always leave its impress not only upon so many lives—such as those whom I am certain we will also decide to help—but upon Life itself.

Today's occasion will make it possible to continue the program that has already, through various welfare agencies, provided comfort, material assistance, and even a new lease on life to countless thousands.

The aged and the disabled have been afforded refuge through institutional care partly financed through contributions to the Community Chest.

Orphans have been sheltered in special homes and brought up to face a world in which opportunity would otherwise be scant.

The children of indigent families have benefited through proper nutrition, and older members of those families themselves assisted in securing gainful employment.

The deaf and blind have been taught productive skills.

Personal misery and lack of opportunity resulting from various other ailments of mind or body have been provided ample remedies.

The extent to which all these have been accomplished from year to year has been made possible mainly through the joint endeavors of the Red Feather agencies.

The harmonious spirit that informs those endeavors has been encouraged by public support of the financial program managed by the Community Chest.

The benefits to society in terms of greater opportunity, peace of mind, and individual happiness, have been the ends to which this financing program has been dedicated.

I wish to appeal, therefore, for your continued sympathy for the humanitarian work that the Community Chest and its 18 welfare agencies are undertaking. I call upon the various elements of our society—private individuals, firms, and organizations, all of whom have in various ways demonstrated similar support—to help make the Community Chest fund campaign as successful, at least, as it has been in previous years.

I realize that by paying tribute to the Community Chest and the Red Feather agencies for conceiving and carrying out their humanitarian program, I am inevitably paying equal tribute to those others—citizens of every calling—who have contributed to their operations. It is to such men and women that we address ourselves. Their magnanimity and sense of charity is the key to the continuing success of the Community Chest program.

The Administration's own program is not unlike that of the Community Chest. It is pledged to the task of eradicating poverty from our midst, of combating long existing ills in various fields of national life.

In wishing to pursue this year's Community Chest fund campaign to a successful conclusion, we derive added hopefulness from the fact that there is among our people a fundamental sense of unity. It is this sense upon which our national program for prosper and self-sufficiency depends. It is the same sense upon which every other program, smaller perhaps but no less necessary, must depend for success.

Apart from the humanitarian purpose of trying to improve the personal circumstances of our less fortunate countrymen, it seems to me the Community Chest program has one timely lesson to provide. All too often these days, charity and sympathy and moral responsibility are confined to mere public utterances. It would seem today that it sufficed to make public avowals of the Christian virtues, that one needed only a platform and a group of listeners to keep those ageless virtues alive and useful.

The Community Chest program, on the contrary, is a call for that greater and more durable charity—charity by deed. I hope, that, if some have failed to demonstrate such charity in other matters affecting the nation, they shall not do so with respect to this program, which to us is a great opportunity to alleviate by actual deed some of the suffering and misfortune which we, as a society, would wish to banish from our midst.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1959). Speech of President Garcia at the formal launching of this year's fund campaign of the Community Chest held Monday afternoon June 1 at the Malacañang Social Hall. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(23), 4226-4227.

**Speech of President Garcia at the graduation exercises of 20-year-old trainees from the Bicol Region**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the graduation exercises of 20-year-old trainees from the Bicol Region**

[Delivered at Fort William McKinley, Rizal, June 8, 1959]

GRADUATES, OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES, MY FRIENDS, AT EASE!

I AM very happy to be with you today, and the nation is gratified that you have completed your military training.

While our Constitution renounces war as an instrument of national policy, in the same breath it provides that the defense of the state is the prime duty of government, and in the fulfillment of this duty all citizens may be required to render personal military or civil service.”

My friends, as young and able-bodied citizens you constitute a vital element of our country’s peacetime and wartime resources. But it is in peacetime that the country’s resources must be fully developed and utilized. You must therefore be prepared to discharge your civic duties as free citizens of our Republic if you must increase the nation’s capabilities to protect itself in times of grave national crises.

Military training is, in effect, a sound way of improving your civic efficiency for constructive pursuits. It is, in fact, an effective means of training young people for leadership in their respective communities. Through their contracts with the young people of other section of the country, the trainees are afforded a valuable opportunity of knowing the problems of communities other than their own, and thereby widen their perspective, to enable them to look at things from the national point of view,

The military training program is based on broad national objectives, foremost of which is the building up of an active body of young citizens capable of upholding the dignity and independence of the Filipino nation. In short, the program aims to inculcate in a sound mind and a sound body the desirable qualities of a citizen who can act as a vital force for a progressive national life. The military discipline which is inherent in your training is designed to foster in you that quality of courage in the face of adversity, alertness, understanding of and deep insight into the problems confronting the community of which you are a part.

Knowledge of military tactics plays a secondary role in all these; and the individual who is imbued with a high degree of responsibility and civic consciousness is more important, more efficient, and more indispensable to a young and growing country like the Philippines. In recent public speeches, I have underscored the vital and urgent need for national discipline as a most potent element in our efforts at national construction and in our desire to enjoy the bounties of a free and democratic life. National discipline calls upon every individual to participate actively and judiciously in the social, economic, political, and other aspects of our national existence.

I would ask you, my friends, to contribute to the solution of the problems, not only those of your home and family, and I would also ask you to be more active in your participation in desirable community projects and in those with national significance. For instance, you might help relieve the economic difficulties of the nation by increasing agriculture production in your own community. There are provinces in the Philippines which abound in natural resources which provide many raw materials for our factories. Bamboo, to mention one of the most common products’ in the country is an important raw material in a number of profitable cottage or manufacturing industries. Coconuts, abaca, our extensive forest reserves, the waters that surround our beautiful islands are a boundless source of national wealth which awaits your enterprising hands.

Increasing the economic opportunities in our country constitutes but a single aspects of the national discipline that I have spoken to you about. As citizens of a democracy you will soon be exercising your political rights as voters. It does not matter much whether you are a Nacionalista, a Liberal, a Progressive, or a Nationalist-Citizens Party man. What is important is voting for the right man and the right issues; for ultimately, it is the right issues and the right men in the government that spell progress for our country. So be alert, my friends, to the political issues of the day. And only thus can we really become politically matured and forge forcefully a truly democratic existence.

This principle holds true whether you are electing a councilor, a municipal mayor, governor, a representative, senator, or president. It is your responsibility as free citizens to analyze carefully the issues that are raised before you and to vote for the men who can give you a government that is truly responsive to the needs of your community and the nation. *That is* national discipline!

No doubt, many of you will assume leadership in your respective communities, while many will settle for a role of just being members of society. But what really counts is the degree and nature of your participation, in the same way that "a chain is as strong only as its weakest link."

Similarly, the strength of a nation is derived from the collective strength of its citizens, the greatest source of which are people of your age. From your ranks and files come the people who work in our fields, in our factories, and in the Armed Forces, and since a few years ago, there has been a marked tendency in our political life to draw leaders from among you. The dynamic spirit is most pronounced among young people; it is this spirit that is known to open many new opportunities. It is the strength that builds the pillars of our industry, one which advances our national aims and objectives and builds the destiny of our people.

As we pursue our daily chores we take courage and inspiration from the thought that our efforts are being dedicated to the security of our homes and of the nation. This thought, has a way of propelling peace and prosperity. Conversely, the knowledge that our endeavors are being wasted constitutes the greatest single hindrance to national growth.

People of your age are the connecting link between the past and the, future. You bequeath to the future the heritage of the past after you have enriched it with your own experiences and achievements. I realize that our Nation, as do others for that matter, impose upon the youth a tremendous responsibility of developing themselves to be capable guardians of the future. It is ironic though, that while this is true, the dynamic potentiality of the youth comes to the fore very rarely and only in time of war. It would be most ideal to have this dynamism as a constructive force in the building of our nation.

We, your elders and leaders, will sooner or later give way to younger people in the active direction or management of our national affairs. It is incumbent upon you the youth, to take the more dynamic role to steel or brace yourselves up for the major responsibilities in undertaking the progressive development of the country. At the same time you prepare yourselves to relinquish your role to the future, to which belongs the *potential* which will in time take up where you leave off, when you shall have graduated to the positions your elders are now in.

And so, my young friends, in our country, as in any other country, every citizen has a part to play. However insignificant that part may seem, that part is actually an essential one, for the lack of it will render any national effort incomplete. Your training has taught you discipline, among other things—that state of mind which impels you to subordinate your personal interests to those of the team or community of which you are a member. Your training has taught you the value of cooperation in bigger efforts, respect for your superior, and cheerful obedience to the laws governing your behaviour in the community. But along with these your training has prepared you to be better leaders or better followers.

Remember that you, as citizens of a free country, are first and foremost an active civilian force before you are part of a military reserve force. You can see, my friends, that while you have enormous responsibilities, you also wield tremendous power as a civic force which the strength of your community and our nation is drawn.

Kaya mga kababayan, ngayong tapos na ang inyong pag-sasanay, lalo akong nananalig sa inyong kakayahan. Dahil dito, lubos ang aking paniwala na pagbalik ninyo sa inyo-inyong nayon ay dala ninyo ang isang bagay na lalong kailangan sa panahong ito, at ito'y walang iba kundi ang nabanggit kong "disiplinang pambansa."

Sa pagbalik ninyo sa inyong nayon, nais ko ay iparating din sa inyong mga magulang, mga kapatid, mga kaihigan, at mga kababayan ang aking panawagan na tayo ay magtulong-tulong upang sa lalong madaling panahon ay maitayo natin ang isang kabuhayan na matatag at masagana. Ang kaunlaran ng ating bayan ay gawin nating pamana sa mga salin ng lahi na darating.

Hinahangad ko ang inyong mabuting kapalaran. Pag-palain nawa kayo ng ating Panginoon. Huwag makalimot ng pagtawag sa Kanya upang matunton natin ang landas ng katwiran at nang magkaroon tayo ng lakas upang makilaban sa lahat ng hirap.

Umaasa ako sa inyong tagumpay, na tagumpay din ng ating bayan. At sa ganang akin, magtiwala kayo na patuloy na aking sisikapin ang inyong ikaliligaya, at ang aking sigasig ay iuukol sa mabuting pamamahaia. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat,

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1959). Speech of President Garcia at the graduation exercises of 20-year-old trainees from the Bicol Region held Monday, morning, June 8, at Fort William McKinley, Rizal. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(24), 4423-4426.

**Speech of President Garcia at the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the U.P. College of Agriculture Speech  
of**

**His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines**

**At the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the U.P. College of Agriculture**

[Delivered in Los Baños, Laguna, June 9, 1959]

MY FRIENDS:

IT IS a pleasure to be here with you the alumni, students, faculty members, and well-wishers on this day which marks the College of Agriculture's 50 years of service to our country and people. I share with you the joys of a home-coming, the reunion and meeting with old friends being always a cause for rejoicing. Fifty years may not be such a long time in terms of the life of a nation. But half a century of dedicated public service by this institution has contributed much to the growth and improvement in our ways and techniques in the field of agriculture.

Ours is prevalently an agricultural country, about 70 per cent of our people being engaged in that pursuit. Hence, from the very outset it is apparent that your work here commands the attention and the respect of the entire country. When you succeed here, our people succeed with you. But in your failings, let the trust and confidence of Filipinos spur you to greater efforts.

The objectives of this college throughout the 50 years of its existence has not changed. The students and faculty members may come and go, but this institution's noble aims remain as a beacon for others to follow.

As we look back through the half century we find that the history of the College of Agriculture is one that our country and people can be proud of. As a training institution for agricultural manpower and as a center for the search for new knowledge in scientific agriculture, this College has faithfully and satisfactorily worked towards the ideals set up by its founders. The alumni of this College now occupy key positions in the various bureaus of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources as well as in other government offices and in private firms engaged in agriculture and allied fields. They are found in the agricultural schools and colleges, in sugar centrals, in farms and ranches throughout the country. It is indeed a source of pride that 4,000 alumni have made their influence felt not only in this country but in neighboring countries as well.

An example in particular is that of Filipino graduates of Los Baños who are helping Thailand officials run the Ministry of Agriculture and the College of Agriculture of Thailand.

The research findings from your laboratories and experimental fields have helped our farmers in no small measure. Through the judicious application of basic research in this institution we now have improved varieties of rice, corn, vegetables, fruits, and other crops as well as better breeds of poultry and livestock. More productive methods of field cultivation and animal management have also been worked out. Fertilizer and irrigation needs of different crops under varying conditions have been determined by our scientists, and more efficient feeds for livestock and poultry devised and agricultural products and by-products have been better utilized mainly as a result of your studies.

All these have been accomplished through 50 years, in spite of the difficulties brought about by limited financial resources and in spite of the last world war. That the college of Agriculture has succeeded is a tribute to the dogged determination of its alumni, faculty members, and student body. I share with you the disappointment that your founder and first dean, Dr. Edwin B. Copeland, could not come to join us in this auspicious celebration. But, he and those of your leaders who have passed on, such as Dean Charles F. Baker, President Bienvenido M. Gonzalez, and Dr. Manuel L. Roxas, are as much with us in spirit today.

The College of Agriculture is fortunate in its partnership with Cornell University in the cooperative undertaking of postwar rehabilitation. This partnership has proved mutually satisfactory and has helped establish a new bond between these two great institutions and consequently the two nations they represent.

Anniversaries are a time for assessment and for mapping out the course that lies ahead. It is, therefore, this institution's responsibility as a public service agency to scrutinize its record and ascertain where it has failed to reach the desired mark or where its goals and objectives need to be reviewed to keep up with changing national and world condition and demands.

I have set the goals for self-sufficiency in food, clothing, and shelter—the basic needs of Filipinos. We have achieved—and for the first time—self-sufficiency in rice. The bumper crop in rice has virtually solved overnight the perennial problem of shortage of this staple cereal. This should be a cause for rejoicing among you because part of the credit properly belongs to this institution. However, this significant milestone in the agricultural life of our country should not lead us all to a sense of false security but rather it should inspire us on to exert greater efforts in other fields.

The other day, on a trip to Quezon province, I noticed a branched coconut tree. I was told the tree was a freak of nature, but perhaps it would be worthwhile if our scientists could find out a way to reproduce a hundred fold such branched coconut trees. Imagine what this would do to our coconut industry. Our production could very well double in the same given areas.

Few will dispute the statement that the progress of our nation rests on the progress of agriculture. The major share of that progress is unquestionably linked with the farmers and rural homemakers that make up the greater bulk of our population. In the final analysis, anything that advances their material and social welfare logically advances agriculture and thereby sets the base for further progress of the entire economy.

This College is one of the principal units of the University of the Philippines which train the most dumber of students from Southeast Asian countries. The International House, a new landmark on the campus, is in recognition of the important role that the College of Agriculture plays in training agricultural leaders, teachers, and researchers for our neighboring countries. The administration has set the pace for closer ties with our Asian neighbors. And it is my expectation that this policy will continue to be implemented by this College.

My friends, the program of training our youth to uncover new agricultural knowledge and to share this knowledge with our farmers should be complimentary, each phase as vital as the other. This approach involves tremendous responsibilities; it also requires a broad grasp of the national economy in which no sector may be developed at the sacrifice of the other.

My friends, in concluding I would like to congratulate the alumni, faculty members, and the student body of the College of Agriculture for their successful completion of 50 years of service to our people and country. I have every reason to be confident that the men who administer the affairs of this institution will ably carry on with their avowed principles of public service.

My faith in the future of this institution is fully justified by the achievements of its fifty-year past. My faith in the future of this institution is as great as my faith in the future of our country, whose bounties we shall reap only through the hard work and perseverance of a people determined to win their rightful place under the sun.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1959). Speech of President Garcia at the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the U.P. College of Agriculture at Los Baños, Laguna, Tuesday morning, June 9, 1959. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(24), 4426-4429.



## **Radio Message of President Garcia to Mindanao and Sulu residents**

### **Radio Message of His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia President of the Philippines To Mindanao and Sulu residents**

[Delivered on June 18, 1959]

MY FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

ON this day, which marks the ninety-eighth birth anniversary of our national hero, Dr. Jose Protacio Rizal, I take occasion to touch, among other things, on the current efforts of the government toward the building of an enlightened rural citizenry.

It was one of Dr. Rizal's cherished dreams that the average Filipino citizen become well-informed. Rizal believed, and I believe with him, that "an informed citizen is a good citizen." Rizal was so obsessed with this idea in his lifetime, that he dedicated total efforts to his known crusade of making the Filipinos an informed and enlightened people. He knew then, just as we recognize and accept the fact today, that "enlightenment is a key to a people's progress." And Rizal loved his people, just as he would those of his own flesh and blood, that he wished them all the progress in the world.

Unfortunately, however, Rizal was shot for the very hopes and aspirations he worked for. He did not live long enough to witness at least the start of the realization of his dream. But he passed on to us the task of carrying on the gigantic job he had started. Indeed, his bequeathal to us was a great heritage from an equally great past in our history.

Today, the government is in the midst of a tremendous and nation-wide undertaking to keep the masses well informed. For the present, our primary efforts are concentrated on the remote regions, or the so-called rural areas in our country. This is so because of the obvious consideration that the rural areas, unlike the towns and cities, are not adequately equipped with facilities for information. But the more significant considerations is the fact that the backbone of economic development is in these rural areas where the country's natural resources abound.

In this modern age, the radio is one of the most convenient media of communication. So it is that the current information drive of the government has been named the "Rural Radio Education Project." The directives for this project are embodied in my Administrative Order No. 279. This project is being implemented under two general principles: First, that national security and progress can be fostered and stabilized through continuous education and information which can be effectively disseminated through radio broadcasts beamed to the masses; and second, that the programs and activities in connection with this project shall be non-partisan and non-sectarian.

We are, indeed, fortunate in the implementation of this project. For, while we were confronted at the outset with the initial problem of procuring radio receiving sets for distribution to the barrios, we are now the recipients of a generous donation. Our donors are the magnanimous American people, who have sent us transistor radios through CARE, the Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere, an organization of civic-spirited Americans who are deeply concerned with helping the peoples in the underdeveloped countries. This philanthropic organization is pledged to donate several thousand battery-operated transistor radios for distribution to our remote barrios, especially those without electric power.

The first of these transistor radios was recently turned over to the Philippine Government at barrio *Mapulang Lupa* in Pandi Bulacan. Just a few moments-ago, another set was turned over to Governor Leon Fernandez in Jolo, Sulu. I am now calling the inhabitants of Sulu on this momentous occasion, which coincides with the national observance of Rizal's birth anniversary. To all of you, I send my warmest personal greetings and congratulations on your receipt

of your transistor radio, which is designed to bring your Government closer to you. It is my fervent hope and prayer that this occasion will usher in for you a new era in Community Progress. To you all, I say, *Mabuhay*.

Allow me to reiterate, on behalf of the Filipino people and government, and through the Philippine Branch manager of CARE, Dr. Allan Kline, our appreciation and gratefulness for this very generous donation. In accepting this donation, our government assures the American donors that the transistor radios will be put to the good use of extending basic educational broadcasting for literacy, health, agriculture, and trades of the Philippines. Our government also subscribes to the avowed aim of CARE—that of reaching the families scattered in the rural areas with correct information-so that they may improve their lot in life and so that they may become aware of the advantages of democracy as against communism. In fact, the Philippine campaign against communism is known throughout the world. Our campaign has been continuously inspired by our innate desire to perpetuate a way of life which communism seeks to destroy—a way of life based on the precepts of justice, freedom, and the dignity of the individual.

In closing, I call on those charged with implementing the government's "Rural Radio Education Project" to derive inspiration from the legacy of Dr. Jose Rizal for the drive towards an informed and enlightened Philippine citizenry.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1959). Radio Message of President Garcia to Mindanao and Sulu residents, June 18, 1959. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(25), 4627-4628.

**Speech of President Garcia before the General Confederation of Women's Club**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
Before the General Confederation of Women's Club**

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, June 22, 1959]

MY FRIENDS:

IT IS gratifying to address you on this historic occasion which marks for the first time the creation here in the Philippines of Asian clubwomen's Federation of Women's Clubs. It is likewise a pleasure to welcome the officers and members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs who have decided to hold their convention here in Manila. The National Federation of Women's Clubs, of the Philippines should be congratulated for making these two events possible here in our part of the world. I wish to pay tribute to all you women from different lands and our own clubwomen engaged in service and civic work, for undoubtedly, through your organized efforts and continuous programming, you have succeeded in changing the world for the better.

It has been the claim of men that this is a man's world. This is more so in Asia than in America. But as I look around me now, confronted by tremendous amount of powder and fire power generated by representative beauties of several continents I have to surrender into the admission that "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." But whether all men will agree to that sincerely or as a gesture of gallantry, we, men are agreed that because of woman's primary concern for the welfare of humanity and for the continuity of the human race your collective contribution to the world for good can never be overestimated.

The General Federation of Women, founded in the United States almost 70 years ago, could have been the feminine forerunner of the United Nations when it established as its primary objective "Unity in Diversity." On this occasion the Philippines takes pride in being the site of the first meeting of the General Federation of Women's Clubs representing 50 countries and the newly-organized Asian Federation. On behalf, therefore, of the Filipino people and the government I wish you continued success.

The role of women throughout the world is fundamentally the same and only made diverse by cultural and historical patterns. Because they are mothers of mankind and are aware of the sacredness of life, women have exercised a strong spiritual influence in almost all fields of culture. It is this women's concern for mankind and spirit of love and selfless devotion that have fortunately tempered man's egomania and thirst for power.

Helped by their tremendous spiritual influence and love for mankind that they generate, the era of peace that the whole world is striving for today is brought nearer realization with the unification of women all over the world.

The organization of women's clubs is a natural extension to the community of women's traditional preoccupations and responsibilities in the home. With the enrichment of their role, including additional responsibilities as enfranchised citizens, women today through clubs are assuming greater and more significant roles in the destiny of their respective countries.

Since the inauguration of the Philippine Republic, the different women's organizations have united into a national council called the Civic Assembly of Women of the Philippines. Your host organization, the National Federation of Women's Clubs, enjoys the largest number of organized members in this national council. To me this unification of Filipino women is the best example of your General Federation motto: Unity in Diversity.

It will interest you to know that this Assembly established a tradition with any predecessors which I am happy to follow, whereby the President of the Republic is host to the CAWP Council, and after which, he not only addresses

them on the eve of Republic Day but again plays host to the whole Civic Assembly of Women at the Tea following the Presidential Award ceremony!

In a democratic and other popular forms of government such as ours the role of voluntary workers in service and in civic clubs is vitally important. Thus we notice with satisfaction and pride that the more people participate in the activities of private organizations, federations, and other forms of popular representation, the better for our government. In underdeveloped countries such services by devoted and patriotic civic organizations are indeed an important factor in nation-building.

In our own country the government has formally recognized, by a Presidential proclamation, the role and contribution of private voluntary organization, especially in post-war reconstruction where organizations have contributed and are still contributing generously to the task of erasing the bitter vestiges of the last world war. The Presidential proclamation I have mentioned sets aside June 30 of every year as Civic Organization's Day.

Our Constitution requires the government to provide "citizenship training to adult citizens." I must make on record here the people's as well as any gratitude to these civic organizations who have contributed much to the implementation of this constitutional mandate. These clubs eased the financial burden of the government in carrying out this specific mandate while at the same time implementing one of our major constitutional objective—citizenship training.

I believe the new law creating about 19,000 barrio councils throughout the Philippines which I hope will be amended to include an additional councilor for home and family, will further open new avenues for clubwomen's participation in community activities. This participation bridges the gap between the home and the community in rural areas and offers an initial training for women's role in provincial and rural levels.

I was especially impressed upon being informed of the specific efforts of the General Federation of Women's Clubs for the conservation of natural resources, that for more than "half a century the Federation has carried on a vigorous education and action program to advance wise conservation policy both on the state and national levels." This wise action program is now bearing fruit in the 30 states where you clubwomen have set up the project of a "Federation forest."

Perhaps we in the Philippines can profit from the experience of this Federation. One of the most tragic forms of national waste in this country is the primitive system of land clearing called *kaingin*, whereby all vegetation and trees are burned for planting seasonal food crops. This pernicious practice is going on unabated despite government relations because of old farm ways, limited number of Agricultural Extension and Bureau of Forestry workers. This burning of forests has resulted in soil erosion, the shrinking of watershed areas, and consequently the drying tip of some waterways important to irrigation and rice cultivation. It is a national problem which perhaps also exists in other Asian countries. If so, then the example of the General Federation of Women's Clubs should inspire particularly the National Federation of Women's Clubs in the Philippines to an action program to stop this rapid depletion of our national resources through its over 300 clubs scattered throughout the country. It is true this country is rich in natural resources and it is incumbent upon us to make use of these God-given gifts properly. Our Filipino women with their natural inclination to create and conserve, could very well adopt this project because the barren lands in some older parts of the world should be an object lesson for all.

But where women should assume a more aggressive participation is the conservation of the man power of the country. You should lead in the fight against youth delinquency. I believe this should be started from the cradle unrelentingly until the emancipation age. This is therefore the natural field for women. Nowadays a great waste in man-power resources of the world has been occasioned by lost youth. This world problem is the greatest challenge to the womanhood of the world. I know you will rise equal to the task.

In conclusion, I wish to commend the women who, over and beyond their traditional duties at home, have found time to render service to our community and our country.

I wish to thank you on behalf of the government and people of the Philippines for accepting the invitation to meet here and of witnessing the unification not only of Asian clubwomen but also, and most important, their participation in the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1959). Speech of President Garcia before the General Confederation of Women's Club at the Manila Hotel, Monday evening, June 22, 1959. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(25), 4629-4632.

## **Speech of President Garcia before the Manila Rotary Club**

### **Speech of His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia President of the Philippines Before the Manila Rotary Club**

[Delivered at Manila Hotel on July 2, 1959]

I THANK you for the opportunity to address this gathering of distinguished businessmen and civic leaders and members of the Manila Rotary Club. I shall make use of this worthy occasion to expound on the action measures which my Administration believes are necessary to uplift the nation from pressing economic problems. This uplifting is our common responsibility, requiring the utmost understanding and cooperation of government officials and private individuals alike. We all belong to one nation, and if we do not stand by her in moments of crisis, then we all have to fall with her.

With this in mind, I present to you the economic stabilization program of my Administration. A frank appraisal of the situation today should convince us of the urgency to act quickly if we are to avert the danger that our problems grow to unmanageable proportions.

The two most critical problems facing us today are those of inflation and low international reserve. They have arisen as a consequence of rapid economic development characterized by expansionary fiscal and monetary policies. That we have indeed made economic progress is attested by the rise of real per capita income from ₱308 in 1953 to ₱377 in 1958.

While these two pressing problems of inflation and low international reserve are common to underdeveloped countries today, it is, however, still true that unless checked, they will nullify the gains we have struggled hard to achieved. Retail prices of selected consumer commodities in Manila already stand 6.6 per cent higher than in 1955. Of course world inflation cannot fail to affect the Philippines because no 'country now can live in an economic vacuum whether it likes or not. The peso is now worth only 93.8 per cent of its 1955 value. Our international reserve has been hovering around \$150 million for the past year and a half now. If the drain on our foreign exchange resources and the inflationary pressure should be allowed to go unchecked, we may have to pay later a much heavier sacrifice than what is needed now to prevent or forestall it.

These two economic problems facing us have originated from expansionary expenditures from both the public and the private sectors of the national economy. To satisfy the aspirations of our people for economic and social development, public and private credit have been utilized to finance investment projects. Increased spending has been made possible, therefore, not so much from current savings as from the growth of money supply. Since the rise of national production cannot keep pace with the flow of expenditures, prices have surged upwards, and the demand for imports have continued to press on our foreign exchange resources.

The time has therefore come to make decisive moves to stabilize our economy. We can no longer afford to allow these unbalancing forces to distort and even to threaten our economic progress. Realizing the urgency of immediate remedies, this administration has proposed corrective measures to arrest the rising tide of inflation and the drain of our international reserve.

To curtail public expenditures, the Five-Year Fiscal Year Plan of the Administration has been revised downwards. In particular, restraints have been imposed on public credit. Programmed public borrowing now stands as follows: FY 1959—₱83.7 million; FY 1960—₱126.2 million; FY 1961— ₱133.2 million; FY 1962—₱135.7 million; and FY 1963—₱79.6 million. The use of public debt to finance economic development has been limited to the most essential projects, or those which has been started and those which it would be wasteful to abandon. In addition, bond financing will increasingly tap the savings of the economy which will not be inflationary. Our fiscal

stabilization policies have also included measures to raise more revenues through a more equitable tax program based on capacity to pay.

The national budget has been increasingly criticized every year. We should realize, however, that some increases in expenditures are mandatory and normal for a nation that is undergoing economic and social development. The budget for a child one year old would not be sufficient when it is grown to be a man. Similarly our budget in 1946 when we were one year old as a republic would be far from sufficient now that we are 14 year-old as a republic with phenomenal growth achieved in all aspects of our independent national life. These expenditures are the costs of providing our people, especially in the rural areas, with the services and facilities for a better life. The Budget primarily designed to meet the expanding governmental functions of the State, has also been oriented to harness the economic potential of our country.

Complementing fiscal stabilization policies are monetary measures to restraint private credit. The rediscount rate of commercial banks have been successfully raised from 2% in 1957 to 6-1/2% starting February this year; more selective rediscounting is implemented. Available data indicate that banks have felt the impact of these measures. Their borrowings from the Central Bank declined from ₱20 million

last January to ₱13 million the following month. The bulk of Central Bank loans to commercial banks in the past year were for productive purposes.

Reserve requirements against commercial bank deposits were also hiked from 18 per cent to 21 per cent early this year. Furthermore, a selective credit system has been enforced on the loan operations of banks. Credit for essential purposes has thereby been facilitated, while credit for nonessential projects has been restricted.

To check the origin of domestic inflation and the drain on our international reserve, the Administration has proposed a margin over the selling rate of foreign exchange. The margin is expected to exert a deflationary impact on money supply so as to bring about a balance between our demand for, and supply of, goods and services. At the same time, the margin proceeds will provide the government with funds which shall be used to retire a part of the public debt, as well as to augment the Securities Stabilization Fund, the Account to Secure the Coinage, and to finance social and economic projects in rural areas. The amount made available to the General Fund would go a long way towards assuring accelerated development within the framework of monetary stability. In short it will stabilize our currency, arrest or minimize inflationary pressure and stabilize the fiscal position of the government by balancing government expenditures with income.

The complex of measures, both fiscal and monetary, in the fields of tax collection, credit restraint, and international transactions, which constitute our stabilization program, should enable our country to muster strength for the next great leap into industrialization free of controls with the private sector given the full play in its development. In other words, like an athlete preparing for the dash forward, we shall have to coil before the spring.

Our stabilization program will eventually result in a substantial relaxation of economic controls in three or four years and finally bring the nation back to the more normal operations of a free market economy. The scheme of gradual decontrol envisioned with the success of the stabilization program is simple. In the first year, all commodities falling under the "Essential Consumer" category of the Central Bank classification will be added to the present "Decontrolled" category. In the second year, about 20 per cent of the "Essential Producers" category will be decontrolled, with another 35 per cent to follow in the third year. In the fourth year the remaining essential producer goods, together with 25 per cent of the semi-essential producer goods, will be decontrolled. Thus, in the fourth year, all essential producers and essential consumers goods and about one-fourth of the semi-essential producers imports will be decontrolled. However, general licensing of foreign exchange for non-essential producers and consumers capital accounts and invisibles would continue but not for long in order to insure the channeling of resources to productive enterprises.

Licensing for capital accounts will remain also not for long, as their unregulated transfer abroad may result in another large and immediate drop in the reserve on account of the existence of a large reservoir of blocked funds. If the stabilization program is successful as I hope by the 4th or 5th year, we should be able to remove the import

controls and rely solely on regulation by the tariff. Starting January 1, 1962, the tariff charge on U. S. goods, which have traditionally comprised the bulk of our imports will be 75% of the normal tariff. At this level, we may expect the tariff to become usable as a normal and effective weapon of economic order.

I must emphasize that the above decontrol scheme is possible only if the tariff will be fully used and if we avail of foreign loans or external assistance.

Concurrent with the gradual decontrol program, credit policies will also be liberalized to allow the private sector a fuller development under conditions of greater stability and freedom. At the same time during this period the Government can pursue an accelerated economic development program without the danger of a resurgence of inflationary pressures inasmuch as there would be available new non-inflationary financing for such outlays. Thus, the more aggressive government program will more than offset whatever hardships these stabilization measures have caused the masses in the form of greater social benefits and greater employment.

To supplement our domestic resources we shall have to increasingly tap sources of foreign credit. During my visit to the United States in 1958, I was able to secure a substantial sum of such credits. With the recent steps have taken to bring about internal stability in our economy, we can hope that more credits will be forthcoming, since we have demonstrated our willingness and capacity to take the necessary, if unpalatable, measures to keep our economic house in order. Nationalism means that we have the pride to be relatively self-reliant and self-sufficient to stand on our own feet and paddle our own canoe and be a contributing member of the great community of free nations.

There still remains one sizable and immediate possibility of foreign exchange receipts which should be pressed right away. I refer to the negotiation and final liquidation of our unsettled "omnibus" claims on the United States. Recently, the just American people and government finally recognized one of those claims, the so-called gold devaluation claims, and appropriated funds to pay it. I have faith in the sense of justice of the American people so many times demonstrated in the past, that I can hopefully look forward to the eventual settlement of all these claims to the satisfaction of both countries. We received from Uncle Sam the grant of independence; we received generous aid to rebuild our country from under the wreck and ruin of the last war. This time I am certain America will give us justice.

My friends, we are in an exhilarating but crucial period of our national existence. We are grappling with serious, often perplexing, problems inherent in a young and developing nation. We know that the solution of these problems necessarily entails sacrifices of some form or another. There is no royal road to national success. But history eloquently attests to the fact that the Filipinos with their spirit of sacrifices have survived through four centuries of bondage, and with the instrumentality of freedom the same spirit of sacrifice will carry us through new and thrilling saga of growth, of achievement, of success and happiness.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1959). President Garcia's speech before the Manila Rotary Club at the Manila Hotel on July 2, 1959. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(26), 4808-4812.



**Speech of President Garcia before the CAWP Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
Before the CAWP**

[Delivered at the Malacañang Social Hall, July 3, 1959]

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE CIVIC  
ASSEMBLY OF WOMEN, MY FRIENDS:

I CONSIDER this annual invitation to speak before the leaders of Filipino women on the eve of the glorious 4th of July, a pleasant duty and a privilege. Mrs. Garcia and I are very glad to welcome you here.

First of all, I would like to commend the Civic Assembly of Women which integrates the womanhood of the land for the rising tide of young women who have collegiate and professional courses to prepare themselves for a bigger and better role in the development of the country. I have noted in commencement exercises this year the preponderance of women graduates in such professions as teaching, pharmacy, dentistry, art, secretarial, and other allied courses. They are now even invading the professional preserves of men; like law, engineering, agriculture, surveying, and other allied courses. This significant development is an achievement of Filipino womanhood and at the same time a rainbow of promise for the future of the Republic.

I also commend the women-sponsored awards for distinction in the different fields of human endeavors, in art, science, social service, invention, etc. This is a potent stimulant for citizens to exert their best and their utmost in their chosen field of activity. I fully concur with the awards given to different awardees this year. One of them has invented a mill that will be of tremendous social and economic value to our people. Another is a genius and leader in art—music. The others are equally important in their respective tasks to contribute to the nation's reservoir of happiness.

In the preparation of this speech, I have devoted some time in going over your Summary Report on your program of action for 1959 and also your major concerns. I wish, therefore, to take this opportunity to thank you for your commendation and your assurances of cooperation through individual and collective action in our:

1. Filipino-First policy;
2. Program of bringing about closer ties between the Philippines and Asia;
3. Bipartisan membership in important representations abroad;
4. Interest in, and financial support given to, cultural projects; and
5. Interest in, and financial support given to, the National Family Life and Workshop, the First Asian Seminar on Mental Health and Family Life.

I would like to take this occasion to reemphasize that our Filipino-First policy simply means that Filipinos should be given greater participation in the economic and industrial development of our country. In the past, our political, economic, and even our social life had been subject to foreign dictation. Now that we are a free and sovereign country, it is but a natural development that we assert our long-felt desire to steer our affairs toward a direction we believe would best serve our people. We will, however, carry on with a companion policy of friendship with other countries. Aware as we are of our limitations, we will continue to welcome foreign capital and technical know-how to help us expedite the development our country.

I have always been personally in favor of bringing about closer ties between the Philippines and our Asian neighbors. When I was Vice-President and concurrently Secretary of Foreign Affairs, I had occasions to visit several friendly nations in Southeast Asia, and when subsequently I became President, I made state visits to Japan and South Vietnam in reciprocation of previous state visits made to this country by the heads of those states. The result of my visits has been encouraging and I intend to make more such visits to other countries as my time will permit. I was gratified to learn that our neighbors are as eager as we are to establish and maintain closer economic and cultural ties with one another for our mutual advantage.

Likewise, I have always believed that representations abroad should not be the concern of one party alone. Such representations more often affect the welfare of Filipinos not only of this generation but of many generations to come. It is for this reason that in the formation of important delegations for abroad, I have always made it a point to consult or invite leaders of the opposition so that the country might also benefit from their wisdom and experience. I believe that such matters should not be the responsibility of a group of politicians or of a group of statesmen, alone, but the collective responsibility of all the politicians and of all the statesmen we have available in this country in this climate and age.

I noted with gratitude that you have also decided to commend me for the support my administration has been giving cultural projects, like the National Family Life and Work-shop and the First Asian Seminar on Mental and Family Life. Whenever I could, I have extended all possible assistance to some such projects because of their uplifting effect upon us as a people. I think, as all of you here do, that efforts in the promotion of these aspects of our national life should go hand in hand with our struggles for economic advancement.

I cannot close my speech before you this afternoon without assuring you that it is also my personal concern as well as that of the administration to insure a high moral integrity of those in public office. As you all know, public morality has always been a problem of past administrations, both in this country as well as in other democracies of the world. This problem must be a concomitant of a democratic form of government. But we may take pride in the fact that, more than any other administrations in the past, this administration has taken steps to minimize this evil in this country because we believe in the moral and spiritual values that transcend all other values.

To be sure, certain factors do contribute to the decay of the people's moral fiber. The women are, therefore, called upon to start the early training and discipline of our children to insure the wholesome growth of a good citizenry. It is a truism that men in the country are as strong as the women make them. Conscious of this great responsibility, we believe in stepping up the promotion of cultural activities and the ever vigilant observance and enforcement of legislations that affect the morality of our people.

I am certain that you will take it upon yourselves to know and make something of these concerns which you have so well prepared in your paper. I shall watch your progress with keen interest. You can be sure I shall quietly cheer you as you journey successfully to achieve greater honors for our women.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1959). Speech of President Garcia before the CAWP at the Malacañang Social Hall 5 p.m., Friday, July 3, 1959. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(27), 5003-5005.

## **Message of President Garcia on the Independence Day Anniversary, July 4, 1959**

**Address  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
On the Independence Day Anniversary**

[Delivered at Luneta on July 4, 1959]

MY DEAR COUNTRYMEN AND FRIENDS OF THE PHILIPPINES:

WE are gathered today in this historic spot drenched by the blood of heroes and martyrs, and aflame with the glorious remembrances of our epic struggle for freedom to celebrate the 13 anniversary of our independence. It is a significant historical fact that the proclamation by American President Harry Truman of Philippine independence on July 4, 1946, on this very spot consecrated by the supreme sacrifice of the greatest Filipino hero, started a grand chain of liberation of subject peoples in Asia, resulting in the independence of India, Ceylon, Burma, Indonesia, and lately Malaya. It goes to show that those who fought for freedom for their country, fought for freedom everywhere. It is therefore a source of national pride that the grand drama of history enacted on the Luneta 13 years ago today marked also the climax that led to the grand finale—the liberation of Asia.

That event was the end and the beginning for us; the end of bondage and the beginning of our independent national life. If our heroic past had called for so much sacrifice in life and blood, the glorious future to which we aspire may not require, I hope, as much sacrifice, but certainly hard, honest, unrelenting work. In that collective toil there must be vision and discipline—national discipline.

In this continuing task of nation-building—a work of love for all Filipinos, high or low, we shall pass through the rugged path of experience of all nations, a blend of failures and successes, of pains and joys, of shade and sunshine. We shall have to cross Saharas of hardships and Jordans of obstacles. But with the help and protection of Divine Providence and with the abiding faith and flaming determination of our people, we shall attain the promised goal—a free, happy and prosperous Philippine Republic truly “the pearl of the Eastern seas.” The order of the day therefore is: Filipinos, forward march and advance to that goal!

It is not only our country which is beset with great difficulties. The whole is troubled by social, political, economic, and moral problems. With us, the choice is between national unity and egocentric selfishness. We cannot survive separately; our salvation lies only in our strength as a nation, as a closely-knit people capable of ensuring our own existence and contributing, too, our share in the peace and welfare of humanity.

We, therefore, propose to continue putting our own house in order and at the same time live in peace and on the friendliest of terms with other peoples. To our Asian neighbors and friends of the free world, we say let us live by the Golden Rule. This is the only enduring basis of world peace. Live and let live in a universe that a common Father has given to us all, and to each that part of what is his under the natural law necessary for the sustenance of his life and the maintenance of his dignity.

As the individual is to the family and as the family is to the nation, so is the nation to the contemporary world. This is the order of our time. Each to his own life, but all united in the highest ideals of One Humanity.

To you, my countrymen, on this day of solemn recollection, I address myself with this pledge: This government which is of your own choosing in the highest democratic tradition will try to do right by you because it is moved by the best interests of the people, especially the common man who, because he has less, deserves more help and first service in the scheme of social justice.

If democracy stands for the welfare of the greatest number, the masses—the working, sweating, underprivileged millions—must be given their due. This I propose to do even if I have to make those who are better-off wait for their turn. This I propose to do by taking away a fair portion from those who have too much. Social justice must begin with the common people. Any economic program must begin with the improvement of their lot. To me that is not only good economics; it is social justice.

It is appropriate on this occasion to rededicate ourselves to democracy and the democratic way of life, the essence of which consists in freedom of the press, freedom of worship, freedom from fear, and freedom from want. This administration not only believes in the freedom of the press but also in press of freedom. It not only stands for freedom of worship but also in worship of freedom.

Above all, this administration believes in the principle of popular sovereignty. It stands on the proposition that the only government that can stand the test of all times is that which is of, by, and for the people. That means free ballot, free and clean elections. It means free and untrammelled expression of the popular will. Without these, democracy would be a farce, a fraud.

It is my pledge before the people of the Philippines and before the people of the free world represented on this occasion by the distinguished guests who honor us with their presence that next November there shall be free, clean, honest, and democratic elections in this country. We had it in the national elections of 1957; we shall have it again this year. Let the next senators, mayors, and councilors of the Philippines to be genuine choice of the people in a free election no matter to what party they belong.

When we became independent and assumed full responsibility of government, our economy was in a shambles because of the war. A considerable portion of the resources available in the years immediately after the war, therefore, had to be devoted to rehabilitation and reconstruction. But the prewar economy was of a type which no longer was adequate for an independent Philippines. By 1949, it became apparent that our government must undertake a program of developing a more viable economy. The efforts exerted in this direction have not been without great handicaps. Needless to say, to lead the country along the path of higher development entails tremendous discipline and exacts heavy sacrifices on everybody. Nevertheless, it cannot be denied that in the short period of ten years, a period during which emphasis has been placed on the development of an agro-industrial economy, we have gone a long way forward.

From an economy oriented previously to the production of raw materials for export which characterized our country's economy upon the advent of independence, a more diversified economy, with emphasis on industrial production is fast emerging. Factories have been built producing commodities which previously had to be imported. In turn, the establishment of these industrial plants has encouraged the local production of raw materials which would supply continuity in manufacturing.

A cursory examination of the country's record of production during the past thirteen years will indicate the advances which in this short span of time have been achieved within the framework of political independence.

Spurred by positive development policies in the form of various incentives extended by the government to private enterprise, the growth of the national output was impressive. To mention only a few of these incentives, we granted tax exemptions, easy bank credit and priorities in the grant of foreign exchange for the imports of goods needed for production. The country's total output of goods and services amounted to ₱9.3 billion in 1958 or 120 per cent above that in 1946.

The remarkable gains in agricultural production as well as in manufacturing and mining were accompanied by a tremendous growth in financial institutions. In turn, this development stimulated the establishment of new types of institutions such as rural banks, cooperatives, mutual funds, and all types of insurance companies. In fact, the total resources of the banking system reached the sum of ₱2.1 billion by the end of 1958, or an increase of 156 per cent over that of 1946.

At the same time, the expansion of credit to the rural areas and for the financing of industries came about. Largely responsible for this was the growth of the Development Bank of the Philippines (formerly the RFC), the GSIS, and the ACCFA and recently the SSS. Worthy of mention also is the rapid expansion of the mutual funds and other savings institutions which are but additional vehicles in mobilizing savings in investment in productive enterprise. All these are indicative of our country's eagerness to invest and to industrialize.

Our total exports have also expanded steadily during the past decade. Although some of our exports recovered much later from the ravages and effects of the last war practically all of them have recovered. So by 1958 they already far exceeded their prewar status. New export products have also been developed. Noteworthy among them are glicerine, soap, cocoa, butter, plywood, and others. We have substantially narrowed down the imbalance in our foreign trade.

The construction of permanent public improvements, particularly highways and feeder roads and irrigation systems and artesian wells, have contributed in no small measure to the notable increase in agricultural production. And for the first time the country could speak of a surplus of rice and corn, the main staples of our people.

There is one thing, however, in the advance of our national economy which gives me deep concern. This is the fact that most of its benefits have become concentrated in a limited sector of our social system. Improvement of the economic and social conditions of the masses continued to lag behind the increase in wealth. This has gone mainly to the merchants and manufacturers. The main reason for this is profit inflation in our economy throughout most of the postwar period. During this period, agricultural and industrial labor gained in real wages, in land reforms, in the protection of collective bargaining rights, and in fringe benefits. Since then any social gains were to some extent eroded by the persistence of inflation which operated to swell profits more than wages. We see for instance that from 1955-58 prices rose by a greater percentage than wage rates. In agriculture, especially, the trend seems to have been aggravated by the inability of agricultural prices to respond to the rise in non-agricultural prices. Profit inflation is the most notable aspect of the general inflation today. What is not obvious to many is that inflationary increases have not been evenly spread out in the entire economy, with the result that the income of those who control production and marketing have gone up faster than the incomes of the other sectors of our society, particularly among those who depend only on their labor for sustenance.

When you take stock of the fact that roughly 80 per cent of our ₱1.6 billion monetary circulation are in Manila and only 20 per cent circulate in the rural areas, you will realize the unhealthy imbalance of development.

It is in the appreciation of our inflationary difficulties and the desire to sustain a measure of continued symmetrical development that we must adopt a program of stabilization. In so doing, we should not try to diminish nor underestimate the wealth and capacity of our natural and human resources. We should only try to redirect, rechannel, and stimulate them to more active and profitable use. We should not overlook, for instance, that our tax revenues, which altogether represent only 9 per cent of our national income, is only a minor fraction of our national resources which by all means should be increased. It is to the credit of the republic that our people remain as of today one of the lowest taxed people in the world. Well-meaning critics of this administration have suggested that instead of raising the revenues we should begin to retrench on public expenditures. To this I reply, as I have said before, that our administration has already effected a considerable amount of retrenchment. During the fiscal year just ended the retrenchment effected under the General Fund ran up to ₱517 million, the highest on record. I doubt whether we can retrench further without affecting adversely our essential public services and without prejudicing the expressed desire of our people for better governmental services, more social services, and more economic development projects.

In the private sector, we adopted measures intended to restrict credit and slow down private spending.

A downward revision of the program for economic development has been effected last year and this fiscal year; but we could effect no budgetary reduction, as it was imperative that we increase the allotments for education, public health, medical care, social welfare, population to the tune of 700,000 every year, 400,000 of which go to public schools every year. In the circumstances in which the people of the rural areas now find themselves, we can hardly deprive them of the services which the Government is called upon to render them.

Continued inflation would divert resources to consumer goods and thus enable the few groups who control the greater proportion of our wealth to indulge in luxuries and extravagance while the rest of our people suffer in poverty and want. What is called for is precisely a diversion from private consumption to social consumption, that is, to social services that could be enjoyed by the masses. This the government can do through a bold program with the support of our people.

It is a great injustice to our urban workers and farm families to allow the development of an economic system which maintains the present unequal distribution of income. In any event, such an economic system cannot hasten the industrialization of the country, because it would deter the growth of the capacity of our people to absorb the products of our agriculture and industry.

Our stabilization program is designed precisely to remedy the situation. The changes involved would undoubtedly entail personal inconvenience and sacrifices which must be borne in the interest of the general welfare. It is certainly in times like this that we need national and personal discipline.

As we proceed to change the pattern of our economy, I urge every Filipino citizen and also each and every foreign resident to give unstinted cooperation to the efforts of the government in this regard. I call upon all the people of this country, nationals and foreigners alike, to lend a helping hand in the earnest effort to attain a symmetrically balanced economy. Political independence will avail us little unless we also enjoy economic independence. Those who profess solicitude for a strong and free Philippines logically must stand for, or sympathize sincerely with, the economic efforts of the present administration.

It is highly significant that, although we have made great strides in production, the control of marketing and distribution has remained mostly in alien hands. Obviously, this is not a healthy situation. It has to be remedied. A number of remedial measures such as the nationalization of the retail trade, the Filipino First policy, the industrial priority system, and lately the dollar margin fee have been adopted. The struggle for economic independence is not easy. Our determination must be firm and unwavering.

My countrymen, on this thirteenth year of independent statehood, let us here make a resolve to rededication. Let us rededicate ourselves to the task of preserving our democratic state. Let us resolve to buttress our national strength in economic stability. Let us resolve to allow no divisive forces to weaken our national unity and discipline in the unrelenting drive toward our destiny—a Philippines free, prosperous, and happy.

Mga Kababayan ko, sa pagsapit ng ika labintatlong aniversaryo ng ating kalayaan ay hinihiling ko sa inyo na mangyaring gumawa ng panibagong kapasiyahan sa sarili. Ilaan natin ang ating sarili sa pagpapakasakit sa ikatatatag ng kalayaan ng ating bansa. Ipasiya natin ang ating lakas na pambansa tungod sa ikatatatag ng ating kabuhayan. Ipasiya nating hindi natin papayagang mapanghina ng anumang uri ng lakas ang ating pambansang pagkakaisa at disiplina sa walang puknat na pagsisikap sa ating magandang kinabukasan—upang magkaroon ng isang malaya, mahgaya, at masaganang Pilipinas.

God bless us all.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**Speech of President Garcia before the First Regional Conference of the Asian United Nations Association delivered at the WHO Building, July 6, 1959 PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH BEFORE THE FIRST REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASIAN UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION DELIVERED AT THE WHO BUILDING, JULY 6, 1959, AT 10:30 A.M.**

I AM happy to have this opportunity to welcome you to the Philippines and to this conference. This assembly is the first of its kind to be held here. It aims to step up the effort on the part of Asian countries to sit down together to discuss their programmes and their common problems. In that sense, this conference is historic. The Filipino people are proudly happy that you have elected the Philippines the seat of such an important conclave.

The United Nations, of which our countries are a proud part, has been conceived to set up a new world order to achieve world peace, world democracy, and world prosperity. Established to promote respect for the rights, the dignity, and the worth of the human individual, and founded firmly on the principle of equal justice for big and small nations alike, its charter authorizes regional arrangements under which such great objectives may be given special concentrated regional attention. Hence this conference.

The United Nations is regarded as an indispensable instrument of peoples working together for evolving a more just, free, and economically secure world order. The goal is still far away. But so far its accomplishments in the sphere of world security and peace and in the field of social and economic wellbeing are so impressive that humanity justifiably calls it its greatest hope.

The Philippines, a young and, I like to think, a brave Republic, is a strong believer in the principles of the United Nations, and consequently, a staunch supporter of the organization's activities. In 1950, when the reckless invasion of South Korea put the United Nations to a crucial test, the Philippines was among the first to respond to its call for aid—all in spite of the fact that at the outbreak of that crisis, the Philippines was at the height of its own armed campaign against the worst internal threat to its security that it ever had. Our expeditionary forces had the privilege of fighting with your forces and those of other members of the United Nations at the inception of that war, and like yours, the forces of this Republic did not abandon the battlefield until the forces of aggression had been halted, and the security of Southeast Asia secured.

Bataan and Corregidor, which you probably will like to visit during your brief stay in the Philippines, are more than the citadels of liberty for which they are known today. They are incontrovertible proofs of how intensely the Filipinos and the Americans together believe in and treasure Freedom. They are perpetual reminders to all that small nations are capable of great actions in defense of freedom and of their God-given right to live as a nation. What we did here lead to our independence, and we like to believe that the grant of Philippine independence by America started a chain reaction leading to the independence of India, Indonesia, Ceylon, Burma, and lately Malaya. Thus we see the solidarity of our destiny, for when we fought for our freedom we also fought for yours, and when you fought for your freedom you also fought for ours.

We have our own internal problems but we have succeeded in overcoming most of them; and now in comparative peace, the Republic is pursuing its future along the lines in which the United Nations has chartered its activities. We are not relenting our vigil against aggression and subversion. And just as the United Nations is taking positive action in the pursuit of world peace and in the uplift of man's social and economic life, this Republic, besides contributing in other ways to the United Nations' efforts, is dedicating its resources to the development of its undeveloped areas and to the social and economic amelioration of its masses. By this, we hope to help, as your own countries are undoubtedly helping, in the attainment of the United Nations' objectives.

The conference that we are about to open here is significant in that it constitutes one step forward in the effort to make peoples the world over understand the United Nations' principles and support the organization's activities. It is a timely awakening to the need for a more vigorous group action on the problems confronting Asian countries. I have no doubt that you realize the magnitude and the importance of the work before you. I have no doubt, either, that you will be equal to the missions of this conference. On behalf of the Filipino people, I welcome you once more

to the Philippines, and with God's blessings and the best wishes of the Filipino people, I hereby declare this conference officially open.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**



**Speech of President Garcia on the opening of the 10th World Jamboree of Boy Scouts at Mt. Makiling, Los Baños, Laguna, on July 18, 1959**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH ON THE OPENING OF THE 10TH WORLD JAMBOREE OF BOY SCOUTS AT MT. MAKILING, LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA, ON JULY 18, 1959**

LORD ROWALLAN, GENERAL SPRY, CHIEF SCOUT VARGAS,  
BELOVED SCOUTS, AND SCOUTERS:

I AM deeply impressed by the colorful ceremonies (marking the official opening of the 10th World Jamboree. In the name of the Filipino people I welcome you—the young ambassadors of goodwill.

I realize the distance, the efforts, the sacrifices, the expenses, and the risks encountered and experienced by all of you in coming here. Your presence here in this colorful gathering is indeed the most eloquent evidence that people everywhere today are doing their utmost to preserve peace and to save this world and humanity from another global conflict through the use of love and understanding which Christ himself and other religious prophets have preached thousands of years ago.

This occasion is a very eloquent demonstration of young people like you (and me, like Lord Rowallan and my fellow president, Mr. Vargas) to preserve this world and to assert your right to live in an atmosphere of mutual trust, peace, and decency. It clearly manifests that you are resolute in your desire to fashion out a future which would be best for you as gleaned from your theme, "Building Tomorrow Today." And who knows? Perhaps you would grow wiser than we and some of the leaders of the world today. I, for one, would like to see this come to pass within this generation.

My friends, I grope for words to express how happy I am, as well as the Filipino people I represent, to have you with us not only for a day but for the duration of the 10th World Jamboree. We consider it a rare and distinct honor to play host to a group of young people who will someday shape the course of world affairs.

The choice of Mt. Makiling as the site of this Jamboree was indeed a wise and happy decision. For the legend of this mountain aptly describes and symbolizes the character of the Filipino people. According to legend, Maria Makiling was a beautiful creature, half nymph and half sylph. She was tall, peaceful with big and dark eyes, long and abundant black hair. Her color was a clear, pure brown, a *kayumangging kaligatan* as we call it in Tagalog, our national language. She was simple, pure, and generous. She had a very tender heart. When the poor country folk wandered about the slopes of this mountain to gather firewood or wild fruits for food, she would fill their baskets with ginger, vegetables, and fruits which turned into solid gold when they reached their homes. And she did this without their knowledge.

Once a hunter came around and tried to kill and chase a boar. Suddenly, Maria Makiling appeared and said:

"The wild boar belongs to me and you have done wrong to chase it. But I see that you are very tired, your arms and legs are covered with blood. So, come in and eat and then you may go on your way."

In exchange for the boar, she gave the hunter some pieces of ginger which, when he gave them to his wife, became nuggets of gold.

But Maria Makiling knew how to retaliate when abused. She also wrecked vengeance when compelled by circumstances. At one time, she sent horrible and strange-looking monsters to frighten two mean and cruel hunters who ridiculed an old woman beggar and, while on a rampage, killed boars and deer owned by the Queen of the mountain.

This is what the Filipinos are: hospitable and kind. Our country is a rich one, endowed with enormous natural resources. We have gold mines, iron, copper, nickel, and other minerals. Our lands are fertile and our forests are

thick with timber, wild animals, and other forest products. Our seas and waters abound with marine wealth. While you are here, we shall offer you the best that we have. We may not be able to please all of you or to satisfy all your wants, but rest assured that whatever we give you are the best we have and that they come from the bottom of our hearts, and we give them to you out of love, expecting no returns.

I heard that the overseas delegates who are here number around three thousand young men. That is an astounding figure. We never had so great a number of visitors before. And maybe we shall not see anything like this again—not in a few decades, at least. I take this opportunity, therefore, to congratulate all of you, especially those who have come from the farthest end of the globe. I am extremely happy that our Asian neighbors are among the biggest delegations represented here—like China and Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Malaya Hongkong, Korea, Burma, Singapore, Vietnam, Borneo, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Sarawak, Ceylon, and last but not least, India. I also wish to extend my warmest greetings to our good friends from the West—like Canada, the United States, Great Britain, France, Belgium, Italy, Greece, Switzerland, Ireland, Austria, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, and the Netherlands; the Latin American countries such as Mexico, Cuba, Brazil, Chile, Jamaica, and Venezuela; the oil-rich countries in the Middle East—like Iran, Egypt, Israel, Libya, and Pakistan; and other countries like Kuwait, Liechtenstein Sudan, and Tunisia.

This camp you are gathered in, has been given by the Philippine Government to the Boy Scouts of the Philippines. Thousands of Filipinos have contributed in the development of this site. I wish also to thank publicly the United States Armed Forces for its contribution in equipment and material for the improvement of this camp site. As Boy Scouts, therefore, this Camp belongs to all of you. You may use it anytime again in the future if you wish to. This will be a permanent property of the Boy Scouts and a training center of youth for all time.

Let me give these parting words to you my young friends, words given as an older brother rather than as President of this young Republic, that the world is always in need of men and leaders, strong and pure of heart. The principles for which Scouting stands are the builders of such men and leaders.

My beloved young friends and Scouters, I wish to reiterate in closing, that we welcome you as brothers and friends. Make the most of your stay here by learning what you can about our country, our history, and our culture. Feel at home by knocking at our doors any time. Let us open our hearts to one another so that when you go back to your respective countries, we shall have profited much from each other, not in terms of material things, but in terms of goodwill, understanding, and peace.

East and West, new is your time to meet and know each other. Good luck.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia at the Manila Hotel on the occasion of a dinner given in honor of Philippine Men of Science, on July 19, 1959**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH AT THE MANILA HOTEL ON THE OCCASION OF A DINNER GIVEN IN HONOR OF PHILIPPINE MEN OF SCIENCE, ON JULY 19, 1959**

FRIENDS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I THANK the organizers and sponsors of the National Science and Technology Week for the privilege of addressing you tonight. I also wish to congratulate you for the successful conduct of Science Week, which provided an opportune period for a highly stimulating exchange of ideas on the scientific and technological problems of the Philippines. Doubtless, your discussions have defined in clearer detail the numerous needs of the Philippines, and have assisted you in charting out the directions towards which your efforts as scientists and technologists must be channeled. I wish you utmost success in carrying out your program.

There is perhaps no better way of concluding this special week than by picturing the role of the Filipino scientist in the perspective of our nation's modern history. In the thirteenth year of our political independence, we find that the weight of independent nationhood on our shoulders is increasing tremendously. We realize now more than ever that the sovereignty for which our heroes fought for is not only a blessing but a severe and demanding test. It is a test that has to extend over a long period of time, and which will determine whether we, as an independent country, can take care of our own economic needs by mobilizing our own efforts and exploiting our own resources in our struggle towards economic self-sufficiency. For, indeed, the stability of a nation in the long run is determined in large measure by the sturdiness of its economy.

It is not very difficult to define the place of the Filipino scientist in the pressing job of building a sturdy economy. In fact, a fast-growing society like ours cannot even conceive of surviving in the long pull unless it intensifies its scientific activities. Expressing it in the simplest of terms, we must make our farms and our factories produce more food, more materials for shelter, more clothing, more medicine, and more of the necessary commodities to meet the growing needs of a growing population. We have come to a critical time when we must diminish our dependence on other countries for the supply of these necessities because such a practice is sheer economic folly. National prosperity is an item that cannot be imported. We have to build it for ourselves.

In this task, the principal builders will be our scientists, our engineers, and our technologists. For it is they who have command of the knowledge and skills with which to extract the riches of our country's resources, and to develop those riches into the many and varied products needed for our people's use. It is they who can exploit the marvelous discoveries of modern science to increase our nation's productivity and raise our people's living standards. It is they who can put science to the service of our people.

It was in full awareness of these needs that your Congress last year passed Republic Act No. 2067, better known as the Science Act of 1958. This law is a substantial proof of the Administration's determination to give the Filipino scientists all the support that the government can give. This is further proven by the sizable investments which the Administration, through the one-year-old National Science Development Board, has devoted to the all-important work of scientific and technological research.

These research activities are impelled and guided by practical considerations, and are geared to satisfy the most urgent needs of the economy. They are directed towards four main goals. The first is to develop methods and techniques of producing reasonable substitutes for the commodities that we normally import, and under this activity would fall the improvement of our rice and corn varieties the perfection of ceramics processing and researches into the manufacture of medicine from local plants. The second goal is to develop scientific approaches to improving our export products. Towards this end, a special committee has been formed to search for ways of effectively eradicating

cadang-cadang, a mysterious vicious pest that has been responsible for the destruction of millions of coconuts in some regions of the Philippines. The third goal is to develop methods of commercially processing industrial and agricultural waste products into useful commodities. Bagasse and similar waste products, for instance, can be converted into pulp, paper, or wall boards. And the fourth goal is to collaborate with the Department of Education in revamping the general system of science teaching in our schools, with a view to producing scientists of the highest caliber. It is extremely heartening to note that the Department has increased the science load of both elementary and secondary school students. In conjunction with the Science Foundation of the Philippines, the National Science Development Board conducts a nationwide Science Talent Search to discover specially-gifted students, who are to be awarded government scholarships to enable them to pursue courses in the physical sciences.

At this stage, government research projects are still of modest proportions compared to the standards of economically advanced countries, but they are steadily growing and expanding. They now cover such varied fields as industry and agriculture, pharmacology, food and nutrition, biology, engineering, and technology. A significant milestone in the history of Philippine Science will be reached within the next two years with the construction of the Philippine Nuclear Research Center, which will enable our country to utilize the erstwhile incredible peaceful applications of the atom. This Center will house and operate our country's first nuclear reactor, which will serve as a source of radiation for the production of radio-isotopes to be used in intensive agricultural, industrial, and medical researches. The construction of the Center will be a joint Philippine-American project, and will attest to the earnestness of our scientist to keep our country pace with the latest scientific advances in other parts of the world.

Needless to say, scientific research is not and should not be the work of the government alone. I wish to commend highly those sectors in private enterprise who have given much of their time, effort, and facilities to such activities. I urge them to continue the work, and I also raise a special appeal to two sectors which are traditionally the bulwarks of scientific research. I refer to the industries on the one hand and to the universities on the other.

The industries are in a happy positions to engage in the search for new scientific methods, new technological techniques not only for increasing but also for diversifying production. They have the technicians and the facilities; moreover, they always have recourse to the technical and financial assistance offered by the National Science Development Board to any project it deems worthy of assisting. The government is only too willing to join hands with private industry in the promotion of research for progress.

On the other hand, the universities have a distinct and special role to play in the development of our scientific potential, for they have always been the fountainhead of scientific knowledge and the training ground for scientific minds. I would ask our universities now to anticipate the future demands of our society not only for engineers and for technologists but for a special kind of professional, the need for whom is becoming greater in modern days. He is the *scientific leader*, a polished combination of the scientist and the organizer, equally proficient in laboratory work and in directing and managing the large-scale implementation of an idea. Without prejudice to the training of more engineers and technologists, our universities should likewise prepare now for engaging in a type of educational work which is definitely going to be absolutely necessary within the not-too-distant future, namely, the rigid and thorough training of researchers in pure science, on whose work and discoveries our future engineers will base their designs for a stronger, more scientific Philippines. For ultimately, the universities, as the seedbeds of scientific learning, are the very foundations of any nation's scientific program; on them our country depends for its supply of finished, first-class scientists.

I am proud to announce that although the Science Act is only one year old, the Administration, through the National Science Development Board, has made a modest but earnest start in drawing up and implementing a master plan of research directed at the four goals that I mentioned. The need that is left us now is to carry on this program with sustained vigor. My administration is solidly committed to a vigorous program of scientific development. Tonight, as we end the celebration of National Science and Technology Week, I renew this commitment and pledge the support of my administration to the noble work of building a strong, healthy nation through Science.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia at the National Health Conference**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the National Health Conference**

[Delivered at Manila Hotel, July 24, 1959]

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

IT IS with the deepest pleasure that I congratulate all of you for your initiative and perseverance in holding this national conference of our nation's leaders in public health. I am confident that your meeting of minds has not only forged a greater unity among you, but has also increased your collective determination to raise our people's health standards through a more effective, more efficient organization of forces. And it is deeply encouraging to the nation at large that you have gathered here to rally yourselves into a much (more concerted campaign to fight the scourge of disease in our country.

The significance of your conference cannot be overestimated. Our public health leaders are in the frontlines of our government's battle against disease, and are responsible thereby for carrying out the government's obligation to protect the health and life of its citizens. It is an obligation that arises from the firm and immutable principle which our Christian society upholds: that human life is of inestimable value in itself, and that health is essential to a full and happy life. As the World Health Organization defines it, health is "a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity." We can never be thankful enough to you—our public health leaders—for your splendid devotion to the realization of this lofty humanitarian goal.

It is largely through the efforts of men like you, with the unfailing cooperation of our private health institutions, that the menace of disease is gradually but surely being conquered. This is easily proven by the rather vigorous fashion in which our population increased by more than four million during the past dozen years or an increase annually of about 700,000. A glance at our most reliable statistics will show that this increase was due to a decrease in the crude death rate accompanied by an increase in the crude birth rate. The crude death rate per one thousand people in 1947 was 12.68; in 1958 this dropped to only 9.44. On the other hand, our crude birth rate per one thousand people in 1947 was 30.4; by 1958, this had increased to 33.15.

There has also been noted a heartening drop in infant mortality rate. The rate per one thousand live births recorded in 1947 was 111.5; by 1958 it had gone down to 80.01. By the same token, the maternal mortality rate per one thousand live births dipped from four in 1947 to 2.92 in 1958.

Though our faith in such figures must be somewhat qualified owing to the absence of more reliable data-gathering methods, nevertheless they are an inspiring indication of the advances that our country has made in the process of controlling and eventually eradicating our pernicious diseases. The most dramatic example perhaps is the smashing blow that malaria has received from the all-out anti-malaria program that we have been intensively and extensively carrying on. Although this disease used to be one of the top four killers during the years after the war, it is now making an exit out of the list of ten most fatal diseases. The spectacular reduction of malaria should certainly serve as a pattern for the wiping out of the other leading causes of death in the Philippines.

Notwithstanding the progress we have made in the control of other diseases, we must face the fact squarely that pneumonia, tuberculosis, gastro-enteric diseases, beri-beri, and bronchitis have been scourging our people in still distressing proportions. Last year, of every one hundred thousand people in our country, approximately 130 died of

pneumonia, 104 of tuberculosis, 86 of gastro-enteritis, 75 of beri-beri, and 73 of bronchitis. Although the relative mortality scores of tuberculosis, beri-beri, and bronchitis have gone down considerably during the past decade, infectious communicable diseases are still our major problems. This should drive us all the more towards intensifying our search for more effective approaches to their control and eradication.

As far as recorded figures seem to show, the general relative reduction of infectious diseases seem to accompany a rise in non-infectious degenerative diseases. Cardio-vascular ailments and cancer ranked 6th and 8th, respectively, among the leading causes of death last year. Whatever may the explanation for this rise be, our experts are faced with the compulsion of directing more attention towards these diseases.

Doubtless we have many other problems to tackle; such as, the (minimizing of occupational hazards and diseases concomitant with our growing industries, and the education of the people on matters concerning the care of their bodily health. I shall not venture to enumerate them to you, inasmuch as your acquaintance with them has been derived from first-hand experience.

But you are also familiar with the extensive program of public health administration which our country has pursued, especially during recent years, featured by certain bold plans that are perhaps unparalleled in most Southeast Asian countries. May I refer, for one, to the widespread extension of health services to the rural areas all over the country from as far north as the Babuyan Islands to as far south as Tawi-tawi. The passage in 1954 of Republic Act 1082 enabled our Department of Health to increase the existing 81 pilot rural health units to a nationwide network which now counts more than 1,300 such units, manned and operated by more than 5,500 doctors, midwives, nurses, sanitary inspectors, and helpers. Making the wonders of modern medicine available to the poor people in the remote Barrios is by all standards one of the most constructive advances that we have made in the field of social amelioration.

The government's growing concern for the health of the nation can likewise be discerned from the 20-million-peso increase in expenditures for health purposes from 1956 to 1957, and from the fact that, the per-capita expenditures for health increased from 47 centavos in 1947 to ₱4.09 in 1957.

Needless to say, no amount of expenditures will do any substantial good unless they are handled with consummate wisdom and foresight, proper programming, and flawless organization. This is the moment when I should stress the urgency of strictly and vigorously adhering to the reorganization plans decentralizing the Department of Health as called for by Republic Act number 997, as amended by Republic Act number 1241. This Reorganization Plan, as you well know, is founded on the unquestionable principle that centralization of public health is unwieldy and unsatisfactory for a big population that is widely dispersed among our many separate islands. Moreover, delegating more authority to the regional units and to the field men would not only stimulate initiative and resourcefulness, but would also enable them to apply the proper remedies for peculiar needs of their respective localities, wherein they are better judges than the men at the central office. Decentralization would relieve the central office of considerable burden as well as minimize delays in action. For local officials are only as fast in acting as they are free in making the decisions to act.

Let me assure you that given another four years, the Administration will exert all the necessary leadership to put into effect the long-range plans envisioned for the Department of Health by the Reorganization Act. My insistence on the implementation of this plan arises from nothing but my firm conviction that it is based on a sound and visionary philosophy of public health administration. I believe that the carrying out of this plan is one of the prime imperatives of progress in the field of public health.

Concentration of attention on local regions should not, however, lead us into adopting a provincial or parochial mentality in our approach to our problems. This is a time life when our public health officers as a whole cannot afford to isolate themselves from the rest of the world and lose contact with the universal efforts to protect the whole of mankind from the threats of sickness and infirmity. This a time when we must expand our horizons, join hands with other nations, learn from their researches and experience, contribute what we can to the universal fund of knowledge concerning diseases, and forge closer ties with health organizations all over the world, especially those that fall under the aegis of the United Nations, if only to show to the world our respect for the principle that

concern for health and happiness knows no geographical bounds, that disease and ill health are common dangers, and that humanity is one family for whose welfare we as a nation are determined to work.

Ladies and gentlemen, we all realize the many problems— some of gigantic magnitude—which we still have to surmount. And yet there is every reason for us to feel proud of the amount of progress that our country has achieved within the past half-century, and especially within the past decade. Our health conditions are undoubtedly among the best, if not the best, in Southeast Asia, and our public health program has been so impressive that a few years ago, the United States Senate incorporated into its congressional record the full reprint of an article on the Philippines health program published by the *New York Times*. This was a manifest tribute to the efforts of our country to push through what the wirtle called—and I quote—”a program based on long-range planning, hard work, dedicated self-help, and substantial assistance from the United States.”

Needless to say, our assessment of our achievements is not intended to glorify ourselves but simply to set the perspective for the long, hard task ahead. We have a bold program to pursue, and that demands the services of imaginative, creative planners and the exertion of the utmost physical efforts to make our country stand out as the model of public health in this part of the world. Let me remind you that our public health program can be greatly enhanced if you—the custodians of our country’s health—take full advantage of the opportunities afforded to medical research by the Science Act of 1958. No effort should be spared, no chances should be by-passed in our massive campaign to make our land a pleasant, sunny haven of health.

My administration is thoroughly determined to work with relentless vigor towards attaining this goal. I am sure that our public health officials, under the leadership of Secretary Valencia, will continue with increased devotion their splendid work of stamping out the menace of disease and of building a healthy country through a healthy citizenry.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1959). The President’s speech at the National Health Conference, Manila Hotel, Friday Evening, July 24, 1959. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(32), 6362-6365.

**Speech of President Garcia delivered at the induction of officers of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the induction of officers of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Winter Garden of the Manila Hotel, August 11, 1959]

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I WISH to congratulate the newly elected officers of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines. Most of them are known to me, and they are all my good friends. To me they represent the type of business leadership that has enabled our country to expand its economy in the face of difficulties. In fact, they typify the enthusiasm, the vigor, the courage, and the ability of Filipino businessmen, members of this Chamber, who are continually proving to the free world the soundness of free enterprise.

It is a source of great confidence for me to know that this representative group has approved only recently a resolution indorsing and standing four square behind the economic policies that I have laid down. I look upon this manifestation of trust as a fountain of inspiration from which I may draw strength. Indeed, I thank you gentlemen from the bottom of my heart for this exemplary gesture that will have its effects not only upon my humble person but upon the entire country and people.

It is also a source of great confidence for me to know that I have you as partners in the monumental job of developing our economy and improving the living of our citizenry. For the task of nation-building is not easy. A complexity of problems must be met and solved—problems so vast in scope that only the joint efforts of all sectors, particularly of the Government and private business, can provide adequate solutions to them.

This is the setting in which I would like to discuss briefly certain matters of vital interest to you and our people. These are problems which call upon Government and business to join hands not only in safeguarding the economic freedom of our people but in achieving greatness.

I am certain that now that the storm over the recent stabilization measures has passed, we can set our sights towards a higher plateau of productive progress and join hands in the partnership of work necessary to reach that goal. It is the duty of the business world and, besides, it is in its own interest, to realize the extent of its mission and to understand the importance of its role in this great task of development with stability.

The Chamber has successfully become the cohesive force in uniting the ranks of Filipino businessmen. Public authorities, therefore, can depend on the constructive comment and advice of the businessmen. Hence, the business community may expect my administration and our Government to exhibit more and more reliance on the advice of the businessmen and industrial leaders in fostering the common goals of the national and economic progress within the context of the public welfare and higher policy. Over the past few years, in the pursuit of development, the government has created an atmosphere in which private Enterprise is extended preferential treatment and facilities the form of industrial and rural credit, tax concessions and subsidies, aids to domestic marketing, protection and encouragement through tariffs, and trade and exchange controls, together with the encouragement of Filipino entrepreneurs. The response of the private sector to these policies has exceeded expectations. There has been a heartening upsurge of investments and industrial activity.

For this reason, we have forged ahead remarkably well spite of the inherent weaknesses of underdevelopment, Aggravated by world-wide waves of alternating inflation and recession. The gross national product has risen from ₱10.03 billion in 1957 to ₱10.46 billion in 1958, or an upsurge of ₱430 million. The national income in 1958



likewise exceeded the 1957 mark by ₱414 million for a 4.7 per cent improvement. Within the national income, we find that percentage wise, the income of private corporations garnered the biggest improvement, recording an increase of 18.2 per cent over that of the previous year. In contrast, income of public corporations gained by only 6.5 per cent, while non-corporate business registered a 4.1 per cent rise.

I think it is noteworthy to point out that corporate income in 1958 advanced more than four times faster than personal income; while on the other hand, taxes on this corporate income increased only one-fifth as fast as taxes on personal income. Corporate income aggregated ₱416 million in 1958 as against ₱352 million in 1957, while corporate taxes stood at ₱101 million in 1958 and ₱98 million in 1957. Philippine corporate taxes are among the lowest in the world. This fact, taken with the circumstances of tax exemptions; industry-biased dollar allocations, controls over competing imported commodities, and relatively liberal credit facilities for industrial purposes, create a favorable environment for the development of domestic business operations.

As a matter of fact, the returns and investment in the various economic sectors of the country have been fairly high during the past ten years.

Local studies revealed that average percentage returns for every peso of investment in selected sectors stood as high as 100 per cent in mining and quarrying and electricity, gas, heat, water, and sanitary services, and above 50 to almost 100 per cent in construction and manufacturing from 30 to 50 per cent in most other lines.

In ordinary business practice in most countries, a 14 to 20 per cent annual return on investment would be considered very good.

Over the past few years, and particularly during the last few weeks of controversy over the margin bill, critics have accused the government of being so obsessed with the problem of inflation and low dollar reserves that it has neglected to push some positive measures, despite the very positive gains recorded by the economy which I have just cited as being a result of public policy. The government has been charged as being one-sided in its efforts to achieve currency stability at all costs. Yet, what these critics did not understand is that economic development cannot be sustained over a period of years at a satisfactory rate without stability. Any country that pursues development hand in hand with inflation and currency instability will only discover that it is building up a colossus with feet of clay, which will topple into ruin at the slightest change in the economic wind. The influence of currency stability or instability on investment and capital formation is no far-fetched economic notion. It is as real and vital to the prospective investor as profits are to the entrepreneur. For instance, if people had no confidence that the value of the peso would remain reasonably stable in the years to come, they would rather spend it on consumption today than save and invest it in the hope of enjoying its fruits at some later date.

The social injustice and economic dislocation that would be wrought by inflation and monetary instability are well-known facts. Yet in spite of this, the government is often left alone to carry on the fight against these problems. At times bitter criticism has come from the very people who could check these problems best in their own sectors if they exerted a little less self-interest and a little more civic-minded understanding and cooperation.

I am well aware that to many of you, the coming months will be ones of adjustment as the effects of the retrenchment and stabilization measures, particularly, the 25 per cent margin on foreign exchange, make themselves felt. But then, some sacrifice will be exacted from every one of us, whether we be in the government or in business, whether we be producers or consumers; We must be prepared to pay a price to enable our country to achieve its long-run objectives of economic independence and development, where free enterprise may be given its fullest play, and where a stable peso will mean higher incomes and better standards of living for all.

In the case of the businessmen, the price he we have to pay will take the form of higher costs and probably lower profits. I realize that profit is the motive force of all business; that it is the life-blood of enterprise. And I uphold the principle that the businessmen, the enterpriser, the producer, must not be begrudged his reasonable profits. However, I must underline the word reasonable and I would like to emphasize that he also is a key member of society, and as such, has responsibilities and duties towards his fellow-man.

The members of this body are *bona fide* representatives of the business community and well realize what some of those responsibilities are. I, therefore, feel confident that when I appeal to your civic-spiritedness and foresight, and urge your utmost cooperation with the government in its present fight to keep prices down in the public interest, my words will not fall on deaf ears.

The business community cannot and must not be content with the reaping of short term and windfall profits from their operations. After all, the legitimate businessman is not a “fly-by night” operator. He looks forward to many years of profitable activity. He, therefore, has a vital stake in the successful implementation of the stabilization program which will in the long run provide him with the environment conducive to the expansion of his business. The expectations of high and easy profits cannot continue to be pushed, therefore, without dire social implications which would in the end result in the liquidation of a free enterprise economy. If we are to sustain our development, what is now needed is bold entrepreneurial initiative for larger and efficient projects—imagination, planning, organization and above all a long-term perspective. This would mean lower costs and reasonable profits.

I have been vested by Congress with powers of direct price-control as a last resort to keep prices from spiralling out of the reach of the common *tao*. However, these powers need never be used. As a matter of fact, I would rather that they remain idle as a testimonial to the maturity, and sobriety of our business groups. Government fiat can never be an effective substitute for sincere and voluntary cooperation on the part of business.

I, therefore, reiterate my desire to have you, the leaders of the business community, as partners with the government in the successful implementation of the stabilization program. We have seen our country through periods of crisis before; let us now bend all efforts to see her safely through the present problems which perhaps represent the greatest threats to her continuing development. If we must have a grand alliance, let it be the grand alliance for an economic Katipunan. Let us cast away the narrow-minded individualism which has plagued past efforts to achieve economic emancipation for our people; let us forge ahead with a concerted and a determined and an increasing devotion to the common weal.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1959). President Garcia's speech delivered at the induction of officers of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines held Thursday evening August 11, 1959, at the Winter Garden of the Manila Hotel. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(33), 6661-6664.

**Speech of President Garcia delivered at the opening ceremonies marking the launching of the 1959 Anti-TB Fund Drive**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the opening ceremonies marking the launching of the 1959 Anti-TB Fund Drive**

[Delivered at Malacañang, August 18, 1959]

DOÑA JULIA VARGAS VDA. DE ORTIGAS,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

IN RECENT months, we have witnessed substantial efforts to speed the country towards progress. Both the Government and the private sector, equipped with new perspectives, have been engaged in various endeavors designed to raise the standard of living, banish traditional ills in our economy, and all in all create conditions of prosperity and happiness for our people. Most of you present here have lent a helping hand in advancing these efforts and achieving our social and economic aims.

I am certain that this ferment for change will continue unabated.

Progress, however, calls for total efforts, and we may well pause to ask ourselves if there are tasks that we should be accomplishing with closer care or performing with greater dispatch. We may need to remind ourselves, for instance, that economic aims call not merely for investments in trade, commerce, and industry but in society itself.

The public health program is one of these investments.

A partial evaluation of the importance of this investment is an opportunity to which we are invited as we meet on this auspicious occasion. For the fight against tuberculosis, now on its 49th year, is a major aspect of the public health program. There had been many times when tuberculosis was the principal disease in our country, taking higher yearly tolls in human lives than any other. When the first organized effort against tuberculosis was launched in 1910, some 40,000 out of every 100,000 persons were dying of this dread disease.

We have since made great strides in combating the disease. In 1935, the death rate had dropped to 214.32 per 100,000, and still further down to 107.39 in 1956. Science, education, and a dogged will to cooperate have constituted an active force against the yearly onslaught of this terrible menace to our nation's well-being.

Reports from health authorities, however, have shown us that the disease has not entirely ceased to be a grave problem. As of last year, there were still approximately 800,000 patients in the country. At the Quezon Institute alone, 50 to 100 patients were still applying daily for admission. The yearly death toll was estimated at 23,000. And even more graphic description of the continuing menace was made in a report that tuberculosis, in 1958, was still responsible for one death every 15 minutes.

It is therefore obvious that maximum effort in combating tuberculosis is the minimum condition to a successful health program.

For indeed, even merely as a corollary to our economic objectives, the fight against tuberculosis is of utmost importance. Each year it handicaps our manpower potential. Death and disability caused by tuberculosis have accounted for a heavy drag on our capacity for productive effort. This fact is of special concern for us today, when much of our national effort is devoted to productive enterprises in farm, office, and factory.

In our continuing campaign against this disease, we are fortunate to have the voluntary and whole-hearted assistance of the Philippine Tuberculosis Society. This patriotic organization maintains those ever growing bulwarks against the White Plague—the Quezon Institute, a number of provincial tuberculosis pavilions, provincial chest clinics and dispensaries, and an active fleet of mobile X-Ray units to carry the public health campaign to our schools, firms, and distant barrios.

The Philippine Tuberculosis Society has, thus, been a remarkably efficient and dedicated public servant, living up faithfully and with vigor to the expectations of the people who have, year in and year out, contributed financially so that this fight against tuberculosis may continue. These contributions betoken the huge, warm spirit of trust and confidence that is today the indispensable ally of the Philippine Tuberculosis Society—indeed, of the whole anti-tuberculosis campaign. I have great personal admiration for that public trust and confidence, and I am convinced that the scientific knowledge as well as the human toil and sacrifice of the men and women engaged in eradicating the tuberculosis menace will be both impossible and meaningless without that public trust.

We are gathered now to renew expressions of such trust in the humanitarian work of the Philippine Tuberculosis Society. I join Mrs. Ortigas who, as president of this organization, exemplifies its boundless sense of public service, and with her I appeal for renewed support of the anti-tuberculosis fund campaign. I ask this support specifically in behalf of the 800,000 men, women, and children who are now afflicted with tuberculosis. But in a larger sense, I appeal to your generosity in behalf of us all, about whom it ought never to be said that those fundamental values of human compassion and sacrifice were without meaning and place.

In this spirit, and with this hope, I now declare the 1959 Anti-TB Fund and Educational Drive officially open. At the same time, I take pleasure in presenting my personal contribution to Dr. Andres V. Castillo, general chairman of the campaign.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1959). President Garcia's speech delivered at the opening ceremonies marking the launching of the 1959 Anti-TB Fund Drive at Malacañang Tuesday afternoon, August 18, 1959. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(34), 6994-6996.

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia at the annual rites in commemoration of the late President Quezon's 81st birthday**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the annual rites in commemoration of the late President Quezon's 81st birthday**

[Delivered in Quezon City, August 19, 1959]

MAYOR AMORANTO, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,  
MY COUNTRYMEN:

MANUEL Luis Quezon, whom we remember and honor today on the 81st anniversary of his birth, was a man of towering virtues. He was personally fearless and politically courageous. He had a firm command of statecraft, imaginative in planning and even bolder in execution. He was a master of the art of politics. He possessed a magnetic personality and a rare gift of eloquence which charmed his friends and disarmed his enemies. He was a tireless, dedicated public servant, steadfast of purpose and clear of vision. He was magnanimous in victory, and a superb sense of showmanship never failed him in any situation. Quezon was all these and more, a man among men, a giant among leaders, now standing ten feet tall in our Valhalla of heroes, fully worthy of the tribute and veneration that his people pour out to his memory today.

But even over and above all these virtues, the one quality of Quezon which has earned for him the deathless affection and respect of his people was his intense patriotism and his noble pride as a Filipino. It is this quality which has deepest meaning and significance to us in our present-day situation. It is the quality that throws the brightest flood of guiding light on the road that we as a nation are traveling today.

Quezon loved his country with a burning passion that fired him to work indefatigably for its freedom and progress, until its flames literally consumed his frail, stubborn body. From the time he acquired awareness of the sufferings of his people under the heels of an alien master, Quezon was seized with the restless obsession to make them free. He took up arms against both Spain and the United States, fighting with reckless daring. When the violent struggle had failed and peaceful agitation replaced armed revolution, he placed himself in the vanguard of the movement for immediate, complete, and absolute independence. With that other immortal of the Philippine campaign for independence, Sergio Osmeña, Sr., Quezon founded, organized, guided, and ultimately led the Nacionalista Party, which became the chief vehicle for the realization of the Filipino people's aspiration for freedom. Quezon's personal career was rewarded with the presidency of the Philippine Commonwealth, which was the final transitory stage towards independence, and only death robbed him of the presidency of the independent Republic of the Philippines, which was erected on the ashes and debris of a destructive war.

"Love your country," Quezon once urged his people, "because it is the only country that God has given you, the only country you will ever have." He was a man who fully practised what he preached.

As part of his intense love of country, to Quezon it was an article of faith that the Filipino was as good as any other man on earth. In many storied incidents, his thunderous wrath fell with a shattering roar on those who forgot or challenged this creed. He was as contemptuous of Filipinos who deprecated their own race and nationality, as he was ruthlessly harsh on foreigners who looked down upon his countrymen. His sharp tongue and violent temper were at their wickedest when he chastised such foreigners.

The late President Quezon was born on August 19, 1878, from humble parents who taught school in Baler, Tayabas. The name of Quezon is synonymous with love of country and independence. In his early life he joined in the war and bitter struggle for the freedom and independence of our country. He was barely 20 years old when he enlisted in the ranks of General Emilio Aguinaldo's army to repel the invading American forces. Serving as a young officer, his record was one of courage and dedication. His deeds and exploits could very well serve as a model to present day officers in our armed forces. He surrendered to General MacArthur, father of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, in Malacañang Palace only to confirm a report that the Americans had captured General Aguinaldo. Having confirmed this, he decided then and there to return to civilian life and pursue further his driving ambition to help attain the independence of his country.

In 1907, Manuel L. Quezon was elected member of the First Philippine Assembly. Together with former President Osmeña, Sr., he helped organize the Nacionalista Party which forthwith announced to the people its platform of "immediate, complete, and absolute independence." At that time certain Philippine leaders headed by Pardo de Tavera launched a movement favoring the annexation of the Philippines as one of the states of the American Union. In sharp reply, Quezon and Osmeña campaigned for immediate independence. History now proudly recounts that the Filipino people rallied around these two stalwarts. From 1907, both Osmeña and Quezon laid the groundwork which bore fruits with the approval of the Jones Act and the Tydings-McDuffe Independence Law.

With his election as President of the Commonwealth Manuel L. Quezon plunged with renewed vigor and dedication in preparing our country for her day of independence. By word and deed, he showed and taught the men around him that the Philippines had to be prepared to stand on her own feet, free and sovereign, when the mantle of independence would finally descend on her shoulders. True to the ideals of his people, Quezon stood firmly to resist a Governor-General who threatened to cut down on the self-government of the Filipinos. Rising to the occasion, he firmly emphasized that "better a government run like hell by Filipinos than a government run like heaven by Americans." By deed, he proved to his countrymen that there is dignity in labor; and by word, he preached to them his principles of love of country. In his code for good citizenship, Quezon emphasized, among other things, love and respect for our parents; veneration of the memory of our heroes and living up to the noble traditions of our people; safeguarding of the purity of suffrage and abiding by the decision of the majority; and finally, respect for the Constitution.

I have recalled these traits of Manuel Luis Quezon, my countrymen, because as I have said they have deep meaning and significance to our people in our situation today. The most precious and valuable legacy that Quezon bequeathed to us was our independence. He labored a lifetime to lead us to freedom. I am proud to say that your government today is jealously guarding that freedom. It is continually striving to make our independence a living, vibrant, and throbbing reality.

Our people cannot be called truly free until the economy of the country is substantially in their hands. The present economic orientation is towards wider participation of Filipinos in the national economy. The Filipino first policy is therefore an integral part of the nation's aspiration to be truly independent politically and economically, a sacrosanct national aspiration for which Quezon, and before him Lapu-Lapu and Dagohoy, Rizal and Bonifacio, Mabini and Del Pilar, fought so nobly and heroically.

In doing this we know we count with the sympathy and understanding of our friends in the Free World who believe in freedom and democracy and in the sovereign equality of nations. And it is precisely because of this that we implacably oppose, an ideology that cancels the fundamental rights of man enthroned in our democratic Constitution, an ideology that would establish a totalitarian state.

In connection with this task of carrying on the noble traditions of our race which was the passion of Quezon's life, let me remind you of what he said in the American Congress during his incumbency as Philippine Resident Commissioner. He said, talking about the Filipino cause of freedom: "If to be free we have to keep the Philippines undeveloped; if to be free we will have to be poor and remain poor, we will unanimously and unhesitatingly prefer to be poor but free than to be rich but subjects."

Thus in Quezon's time, when the supreme and primordial aim of our people was to win immediate, complete, and absolute independence, we were indivisibly united behind this objective. No political party dared come on the scene armed with a lesser purpose, and the few foolhardy ones that did venture to preach departure from the glorious ideal of independence suffered prompt and complete political extinction, as the Federalists for example. Thus, while we never lacked political parties that fought each other furiously on an infinite variety of other issues, they were fully in accord on the issue of independence, political and economic. On that question we were one united people, leaving no doubts in the mind of anyone as to our sentiments. Because of such unity, we achieved our political independence. With that same unity we shall achieve economic independence.

I would therefore conclude by saying that the most fitting way to perpetuate the memory of Manuel L. Quezon is to keep alive by our thoughts and our deeds and our practices the deathless nationalistic ideals of that great Leader. About the momentous matter of nationalism he said these, immortal words that continue to reverberate in the heart of the Filipino nation: "Rightly conceived, felt, and practised, nationalism is a tremendous force for good. It strengthens and solidifies a nation. Community interest is made active. It preserves the best traditions of the past and adds zest to the ambition of enlarging the inheritance of the people. It is, therefore, a dynamic urge for continuous self-improvement. In fine, it enriches the sum total of mankind's cultural, moral, and material possessions through the individual and characteristic contribution of each people." Let these vibrant thoughts guide and inspire the Filipinos of this generation and those to come.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1959). President Garcia's Speech at the annual rites held in Quezon City Wednesday afternoon, August 19, 1959, in commemoration of the late President Quezon's 81st birthday. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(34), 6996-6999.

**Address of President Garcia at the induction ceremony of officers of the Lions International District 301**  
**Address**  
**of**  
**His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia**  
**President of the Philippines**  
**At the induction of officers of the Lions International District 301**

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel, August 22, 1959]

MY FRIENDS:

I CONSIDER it a privilege to be able to speak to you tonight. The Lions are a hardy breed, even in captivity, and they have been known to face a battery of speakers as other men face a firing squad—with desperate courage. I ask you to summon that courage now.

Tonight I shall speak as a partisan. I shall not be brimming with the spirit of goodwill, but I promise to tell the truth.

As this is an election year, I assume you have more than a normal curiosity about the issues and men at stake in this campaign. Let me begin therefore by stating this: I am confident that the Nacionalista Party will win this elections, just it has won all elections since 1953. It will win for two simple reasons—it has a good program of government and it has men who are sincerely dedicated to the implementation of that program.

The Nacionalista Party has played a historic role in the birth and growth of the Filipino nation. In a time of subjection, it nourished the hopes of independence. In a time of confusion, it provided direction and purpose. Today, it is engaged in the mighty task of conferring solidity and substance on our freedom as a people.

I can think of no finer testimony to the health and vitality of the Nacionalista Party than the fact that it has lasted so long. That vitality springs from the Filipino people who have through the past half century found in the Nacionalista Party the appropriate vehicle for the realization of their goals and aspirations.

The Party has never betrayed that trust, keenly aware that those who do, meet with rough and fitting justice at the hands of the people.

In sad contrast to the vigor of the Nacionalista Party, the opposition parties already betray, so early in the campaign, the unmistakable signs of political anemia. It is curious, but perhaps significant, that neither party could find within its ranks the necessary supply of candidate to fill a decent senatorial fist. I suggest that where ambition exceeds capacity, it means only disaster at the polls.

The Liberals tried to remedy the, situation by importing talent, but unfortunately, the tariff was too high. They couldn't beg a vote in 1953, and now in 1959 they could not even borrow a single candidate. Finally they did manage to complete their quota, but only by scraping the bottom of the barrel.

I strongly doubt that the bottom is good enough. Indeed, in a rare moment of candid self-analysis, a Liberal Party leader confessed, and I quote, "Since we (the Liberals) do not have a strong political organization . . . , the top leaders of our party should have picked superior candidates.... But as it is, we have lameducks, plus a couple of discredited individuals in our senatorial ticket. If," he continued, "we cannot pick strong candidates, what's the use of campaigning when we are licked before the start of the campaign".

I sympathize with the gentleman, but personally I think he speaks with the very voice of wisdom.



As for the Grand Alliance, it is not an alliance, except for convenience, and it is certainly not grand. It is a pseudo party, a collection of displaced persons unable to find shelter in the parties of their original choice. There is only one reason for the existence of the Grand Alliance and that is to repair the sheltered self-esteem of its members.

The opposition parties have this in common—they lack a solid and comprehensive program of government. They seek election to office on the basis of grandiose but sterile promises. This accounts for the fact that as of this late date they can discover no valid issues against the Nacionalista administration. Since they can offer the people no practicable alternatives to the Nacionalista domestic program, it is logical to infer that they do in fact agree with the basic direction of the policies of the current administration. If that be the case, I would strongly advise the opposition parties to drop their candidates and line up behind me in support of the Nacionalista policies. We are in the midst of a tremendous national effort and all willing hands are welcome to help in the great task.

It is patent that neither of the parties of the opposition act from motives of principle. The animating spirit which impels them to win high public office is, to put it bluntly, the naked and vulgar thirst for power. However they may disguise their true motives, the truth will out. As the Liberals discovered at such fatal cost, it is not possible to hoodwink the people for all time.

It is strange that certain Nacionalistas now living with the Liberal Party and the Grand Alliance, without benefit of clergy, should find it so difficult to disaffiliate themselves from the Nacionalista Party. It seems to me that if they find the conduct of the Nacionalista policies so distasteful, as they profess to feel, the honorable course for them would be to resign. But in acting as they did, they have gained nothing while seriously compromising their integrity both as individuals and as politicians.

The allegation that as Nacionalistas they would be powerless to fiscalize the administration does not hold water. The Nacionalista Party discipline is tight but it has never been exercised to stifle the spirit of free and honest inquiry. The allegation therefore is baseless. The only possible conclusion is that these Nacionalistas wish to have the best of worlds, belonging to one party while paying hypocritical lip service to the other.

So much for that. I should like to dwell now on the two principal charges aired by the opposition parties. The first is the familiar one of graft and corruption and the second is the state of the Philippine economy. In my frank opinion, the charges on both counts are pointless.

I am astonished that in the light of its record, the Liberal Party should be so vocal about the question of graft and corruption in public service. The trouble with the Liberals is that their memory is short; collectively they are afflicted with self-induced amnesia. Otherwise, how could they forget in the short space of six years that it was they, not the Nacionalistas, who elevated venality in public service to the level of principle; that it was they, not the Nacionalistas, who so ruthlessly pillaged the public coffers in reckless and cynical disregard of elementary human decency. Yet now they seek to make the Filipino people believe that they are bathed in the odor of sanctity. This is preposterous. They should take wise counsel and humbly continue to do penance until the memory of their sins is erased from the minds of men.

I challenge the Liberal Party to match the record of the Nacionalista administration in the effort to minimize and eradicate graft and corruption in government. In all candor, I can state that no administration in the past, whether Liberal or Nacionalista, has more vigorously prosecuted the campaign to weed out corrupt elements in the public service as the present administration.

The record is well known. Between August of 1958 to June of this year, the Presidential Committee on Administration Performance Efficiency completed action on over a thousand cases involving various forms of malfeasance in office. Roughly over 4,000 more cases are in the process of investigation and study. The Bureau of Customs and the Department of Finance, as well as the ACCFA, have as you know been overhauled following the discovery of irregularities in those departments.

I might remind my critics that action on these cases came as a result of direct presidential initiative. Those who allege falsely the loss of revenues through theft and wastage might also be reminded that for the period of February

to May 1959, the Bureau of Internal Revenue announced a record tax collection of 27.5 million pesos, a figure which far exceeds previous budgetary estimates.

These are merely a few of the numerous indications that the government is slowly but surely mastering the deep-seated evil of corruption. The malady is of long standing and is by no means peculiar to the present. It is a hangover of colonialism, afflicting most societies similar to our own. Recognizing the cause, and realizing that it may fatally corrode the structure of our society if allowed to go unchecked, I have through my various policies sought to refashion the character of our economic and political environment. I know that by this means, hand in hand with resolute and energetic action on corruption as it occurs, we can hope in a none-to-distant future to eradicate permanently the twin diseases of graft and corruption.

I turn now to the state of our economy. The specter of an economy in total ruin haunts and fascinates the opposition parties. The fact that the picture bears little resemblance to reality seldom gives pause to the fantasists of disaster. Since I assumed office several years ago, I have continually been assured that far from progressing the Philippines is retrogressing; that there is no money in the till; that one of the richest pieces of real estate in the world has been allowed to fall into rank decay; and similar other morbidities calculated to chill your blood. I can assure you that if these were even remotely true, we should all now be in the streets begging for grains of rice.

But let me present the facts. Over the two-year period from 1956 to 1958, the national income rose by a remarkable 13.5 per cent. Per capita income followed a similar upward curve. In 1953, the year of the last Liberal regime, per capita income stood at ₱308; in 1958, it had risen to ₱376. These figures provide incontrovertible evidence that the national economy is advancing. I would go further and say that the economy is not only advancing but advancing at a truly remarkable rate.

Equally undeniable evidence of progress confronts us in respect to the industrialization and agricultural programs. By the end of 1958, over 1,000 industries were in full operation, in contrast to the year 1953 when there were only 150 industries. Agricultural production, on the other hand, increased at the spectacular rate of 19.4 per cent between 1954 and 1957, a rate which the United Nations in a recent report described as the highest in the Far East. As a necessary part of the industrialization program, the development of power potentials, the extensions of railroad service, and the building of roads and bridges, have been continued at an accelerated pace.

Foreign trade, which is of vital importance to us, has also improved. Last year's total exports showed an increase of ₱96 million over that of 1954 while imports, now drastically limited to essentials, fell by 12.1 per cent during the first three quarters of 1958.

I realize that material progress, however desirable, does not constitute an end in itself. It must be made meaningful in terms of the lives of the common people. The enhancement of a stable social order properly begins in recognizing the preposition that the fruits of progress must be shared by all segments of society.

In the implementation of this objective, the Nacionalista administration today vigorously pursues a program of social justice. The principal feature of this program is the effort to provide land for the landless. Between 1955 and 1958, a total of 152,961 hectares were allocated to over 23,000 families. At the same time, the government acquired in 1958 alone 16 landed estates in various parts of the country for eventual redistribution to tenants.

At the start of my administration, I announced that one of my fundamental objectives was the attainment of self-sufficiency in food, clothing, and shelter. I can now report that satisfactory progress is being made in this endeavor. Private investment in food manufacturing has increased appreciably, leading to the hope that eventually the country can make substantial reductions in food imports. The most significant development, however, is the fact that for the first time in our history we produced this year sufficient rice and corn for our needs. This means that we have started to think in terms of exporting rather than in importing these basic items of food.

I have gone into some detail in disclosing the record of my administration to disprove the allegation that the country under the Nacionalistas is on the brink of collapse. It is, of course, natural for the opposition to call the governing powers bad. To a Capulet, all the Capulets are good and all the Montagues are bad, and there is no disputing the

matter. I do not care to dispute with them, but only to present the record of the last six years to the Filipino people themselves who are the final and legitimate judge.

The country today, far from tottering, has begun to stand on its own feet and move forward under its own power. This in itself is a grand achievement which no self-respecting people would exchange for a false prosperity founded on mendacity and subservience. We could have remained in the shadowy world of half free and half slave and been assured of our daily rations, but it would have been a shameful state indeed, doing extreme violence to our dignity and conscience. With your consent I have chosen the path of honor and virtue, and let us hope there will be no swerving from it.

I do not by any means minimize the problems confronting the country. But I do say that such problems are inherent in our current stage of development and the path we have chosen. They are problems which beset all the newly-born countries of the world. The test is whether such problems cannot be surmounted by bold, energetic, and imaginative leadership.

I am convinced that they can be surmounted. I am further convinced that on the basis of its record, the Nacionalista Party is the only party fitted to exercise that leadership.

But most of all, my friends, I am convinced that if the program initiated by the Nacionalista administration were to be reversed, it would constitute a setback from which we shall not recover in a generation. The miracle of our day lies not only in achievement in the face of great odds but in increased self-respect and national dignity. A profound sense of liberation is astir in the land, and the awakening energies, of our people are clearly evident in the vigorous and dynamic character of Philippine life today.

You and I must fight to keep that miracle going.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1959). President Garcia's address at the induction ceremony of officers of the Lions International District 301, at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel, on August 22, 1959. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(35), 7319-7325.

**Speech of President Garcia before the awarding of the Legion of Merit by the Marquez Veterans Legion**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
Before the awarding of the Legion of Merit by the Marquez Veterans Legion**

[Delivered at Manila Hotel, August 26, 1959]

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,  
FELLOW VETERANS:

I ACCEPT this award with great humility. I am sure that the other distinguished guests whom you honor here tonight deserve your plaudits more than I do. During that great episode which tested our worth to be free, none among the people gathered here tonight wavered in our faith in the sublime principles of freedom and democracy.

Your country and your government have not forgotten. Your country has not forgotten that in her hour of crisis you raised your arms to protect her. Your government has not forgotten, that in the dark days when it was forcibly exiled from these shores, you fought valiantly for its return to the Filipino people.

I believe that the welfare of the veterans must be the continuing concern of the government. My administration is dedicated to this idea. I also believe that this concern over your welfare should not be in the form of government handouts but, what is more important, in a form that would give our veterans ample opportunities for readjustment to society and for taking part fruitfully and purposefully in the task of building up the country which they helped rescue from the enemy.

It was in this spirit that I signed into law what is now Republic Act No. 1889, creating the Veterans Claims Commission. I am convinced that there are still legitimate claims of veterans which remain to be satisfied and I had precisely these deserving veterans in mind when I approved Republic Act 1889.

I was warned, when this, legislation was still pending in the Congress, that this law would encourage the growth of the so-called "post-war veterans," and thereby give rise to numerous illegal claims. I am confident, however, that the appropriate agencies of the government will be able to distinguish the valid claims from the false.

I urge upon you who are here this evening to assist our government authorities in exposing those who would destroy the good name of legitimate veterans by filing false and unmerited claims. The greatest disservice you can do to your country and to your fellow veterans is to allow yourselves to be used by unscrupulous so-called "leaders" in their attempt to corrupt the veterans of this country.

With respect to the Omnibus Claims which we presented to the United States Government, a sizable portion of which will affect the veterans of our country, I shall press further our representation for a resolution of the issues that will be mutually satisfactory to both peoples. I have stated more than once our great faith in the American sense of justice. Because of this abiding faith, I am confident that the great American people will do right to those who really stood by them in their darkest hour.

Today, we are faced with the massive task of building out of the ruins of war and the mistakes of past administrations a country that will guarantee to our people a livelihood commensurate with their status as a free nation. Your fiscal planners, upon my directions, are taking bold and decisive steps which are designed not to be mere palliatives but to be lasting solutions to the problems which have chronically plagued our country.

I am convinced that nationalism and the Filipino First policy, upon which my administration stands foursquare, provides the key that will open for us the gateway to a life of prosperity and peace, not only for this generation, but also for Filipino generations yet to come.

I ask all of you, and through you, and all other veterans in the country to rally behind me in this task to build our nation. Let every veteran in this fair land of ours be a warrior in times of war and a builder in times of peace.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1959). President Garcia's speech before the Awarding of Legion of Merit by the Marquez Veterans Legion held Wednesday morning, August 26, 1959, at the Manila Hotel. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(35), 7324-7326.

**Speech of President Garcia before the Sugar Technologist Convention Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
Before the Sugar Technologist Convention**

[Delivered at Manila Hotel, August 26, 1959]

FRIENDS:

I DECLINED your last two previous invitations to address this body because I felt, and still feel, I am not qualified to talk on a very technical subject like the complexities of sugar technology and the possible utilization of sugar by-products. But the persistence of this group has finally convinced me, a layman, to appear before this assembly of technologists. It is precisely because of this dogged tenacity that the sugar industry has made the giant strides from the animal-drawn muscovado mills at the turn of the century to the most modern steam and electric factories of today. Why, even in the field of politics this bulldog of tenacity of the sugar people has won general respect and admiration.

Today, I shall limit my comments on broad generalities affecting the industry as a whole as I see it and restate the Administration's policy of assistance.

More than ever, unity among all segments of the industry is of the essence. Never has the industry faced a greater challenge. Production cost is mounting and the world competition is getting more intense with each passing year. Planters and millers, supervisors and workers, the government and the industry must therefore join hands if the industry is to meet the challenge successfully.

I am disturbed by reports that, eventually, American refineries would demand the shipment of our sugar exports in bulk owing to a faster turn-over of ships, ease in unloading, and economy in labor handling. I believe the only alternative left us is to pool our resources and map out a national blueprint for the eventual mechanization of sugar bulk handling.

In this respect, the Administration pledges assistance in the way of dredging the shallow harbors, especially those in Negros Occidental, to allow access to ocean-going bulk carriers.

May I suggest that the time has come" for captains of the sugar industry to sit down on a conference table and discuss ways and means of shipping sugar in bulk. Some centrals that are far away from loading points can produce domestic sugar and switch their export production with centrals near bulk handling terminals. If this plan can be carried out, we can initially limit the construction of bulk terminals in Negros island and in Luzon. In preliminary studies it was found that two terminals for Negros and one for Luzon will suffice. But these are preliminary studies which I hope you will examine more critically and thoroughly during your convention.

But the subject that interests me most today is the challenge posed by sucro-chemistry. This is also the most pertinent subject for sugar technologists.

The development and eventual mass production of detergent is one. I have been informed that high quality detergent can be manufactured from refined sugar and ester of coconut oil using potassium as a catalyst. If this is true, sucro-chemistry opens an entirely new horizon not only for our sugar but also for our coconut industry. This new industrial frontier envisages tremendous possibilities which should claim in the most conscientious research by sugar chemists.

The abundant cheap labor and even cheaper materials of yesteryears which contributed immensely to the rapid growth of our sugar industry are now gone. Condition today is exactly the reverse. Cost of labor is rising not to

mention cost of materials. And coupled with these difficulties, is the fierce competition now prevailing in the world sugar market.

A wise scientific utilization of sugar cane by-products might help not only in bringing down overall production costs, but also develop new industries now only envisioned by science.

Our present factories leave very little to be desired. Our sugar extraction compare favorably with the world's best. There is very little room for advancement in present factories which have all but attained their maximum deficiencies.

While in the field of agriculture we have not made as spectacular a progressive, our farmers, with better oil management, wiser use of fertilizers, and creation of new cane varieties are beginning to achieve records of production that are beginning to reach the world's peak.

With the annual researches of your associations, and those of the Philippine Sugar Institute, we can still improve our production records in the fields. And I predict the day is not far off when that goal is reached. Definitely, we are on the right track and all we need is time and, of course, market. The present world sugar market seems to be saturated, and only the development of industries utilizing sugar by-products will create expanded market demands.

Today, we are producing paper from bagasse pulp. Another bagasse pulp and paper mill will soon be established along the Bago River. Wallboards and acoustical boards from bagasse are now being manufactured.

Excess molasses is now being absorbed by the livestock feed manufactures. Yeast is also being produced from distillery slops and excess molasses. And this source of rich livestock feeds has not yet been fully tapped. But here again, the day is not far off when molasses and its uses will be finally harnessed.

It has therefore become imperative that sucro-chemistry be given top priority, for it promises new horizons and new wealth for all. This is the great challenge to our scientists in general and to the sugar technologists in particular.

There are reports that films and other photographic materials may be manufactured from raw materials using molasses as base. The future of this development will mean better and cheaper diagnosis of illnesses and will bring the X-ray picture within the reach of the common man.

I foresee the day when sucro-chemistry will take its place right alongside petro-chemistry which today sustains the world's major industries.

I therefore call on all our sugar technologists and scientists, planters and capitalists, the men and the captains of the industry, to unite and usher in the new era of prosperity mainly based on the exploitation of sugar manufacturing by-products.

On your shoulders rests the salvation of the industry. On your shoulder, will, and determination hinges to a great extent the economic destiny of the State.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1959). President Garcia's speech before the Sugar Technologist Convention held Wednesday morning, August 26, 1959, at the Manila Hotel. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(35), 7326-7328.

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia at the Inauguration of the Newly Reconstructed Municipal Hall of San Juan, Rizal, August 28, 1959**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA’S SPEECH AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE NEWLY RECONSTRUCTED MUNICIPAL HALL OF SAN JUAN, RIZAL, AUGUST 28, 1959**

GOVERNOR  
MAYOR  
MY GOOD FRIENDS OF SAN JUAN:

RODRIGUEZ,  
IBUNA,

ABOUT two years ago, on this neighborhood, I made a promise that if elected I would help in the construction of a new municipal building for San Juan in order that you may have a bigger, and better edifice that will serve your various and growing needs. I come before you today to participate in the inauguration of that building in the midst of general jubilation of the people of this bristling town. Let me express the hope that this achievement of the town will not be the last, but only the beginning of an era of growth and expansion of San Juan in all aspects of human progress.

Somehow, the problem faced by San Juan with regard to its old building is typical in scope and extent with the problems faced by other municipalities in our country. In the case of San Juan, the old building could no longer serve the expanded needs of a prosperous municipality that has grown more than twenty times since the construction of the original building 48 years ago.

In many other places the problems are more complex. They include outmoded ways of making a living which could no longer meet the demands of a growing population, the attendant sociological, political, and health problems that arise from a marginal economy. The needs of these municipalities may be concretized not in the form of new municipal buildings but in the more immediate forms of irrigation projects, waterworks for potable water, more efficient systems of agricultural production, more feeder roads to take produce to markets, cottage industries to augment the family income, better public services in the form of sanitation measures, and rural health services.

In social services alone, the growing needs of our people have led us to increase our expenditures by 70 per cent since 1953. These services include education, health, labor, welfare, and hospitals. In round figures, the Liberal administration spent ₱193 million for such services, and in sharp contrast, your administration for the same social services had spent ₱366 million last year.

Some of my critics have taken advantage of my busy schedule to misrepresent my economic program as sidetracking the welfare of our rural masses, those who live in the barrios particularly. I do not wish to take part in any petty debate with detractors of my administration. Your President is too busy attending to your needs and the multifarious problems of the nation. If I try to answer all criticisms, I shall have no time for something else,

But for your information and so that the rest of our people may know, I wish to reiterate certain statistics that will give the lie to the charge that I have neglected the rural areas and at the same time show that my administration has done more for the barrios than any other administration in the past.

Our late beloved President Magsaysay was the first President to launch community developments projects on a nationwide scale. This community development program, by the way, was an unknown or at best a forgotten project during the Liberal administration. When President Magsaysay met his untimely death, there were only 641 barrios covered and 2,121 community development projects generated.



Today, the PACD serves 5,231 barrios and generate a total of 20,254 projects with an aggregate value of ₱17,916,254.90. In other words, community development in the rural areas has increased and expanded tenfold since I assumed the Presidency.

The value of these projects which is ₱18 million in round figures did not all come from government funds.

The philosophy behind our rural development program is self help, and the tremendous success of this program may be gleaned from the fact that of the ₱18 million cost of the projects currently being undertaken, ₱11 million has been contributed by the barrio people themselves in the form of labor, material,, and cash for the projects that directly benefit their barrios. This again, is a testimonial to the initiative and reliability of our common people. It also shows that confidence and trust of our rural folks in the present administration.

I say these things here, I repeat, not to debate with my critics but to, set the record straight. Our people have shown their maturity time and again, to differentiate between fact and fiction. And I am confident that you will once more rise to the occasion and do justice by those who have your welfare at heart. I stand on my record. Let the opposition equal this.

My good friends of San Juan, this is a festive occasion for this first class municipality. Many other municipalities do not enjoy the prosperity of San Juan, Rizal. It is my hope, however, that given time and God's grace, and with the unstinted cooperation now being manifested in the rural areas between our people and our government, all the other municipalities in the country will grow prosperous enough for all our people to enjoy the blessings of a decent, comfortable, and happy life.

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**Speech of President Garcia on the 2nd anniversary of the Social Security System Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
On the 2nd anniversary of the Social Security System**

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel, September 1, 1959]

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

WHEN I was asked to speak on this, the Second Anniversary of the Social Security System, I did not hesitate to accept the invitation. There is no subject closer to my heart than the workingman and his welfare for which this System was conceived and to which it is dedicated.

As I join you in observing this significant occasion, I take great pride in the thought that, in my own modest way, I had helped bring it into being. I remember that some two years ago and shortly before the presidential elections, I was confronted with what seemed to be a weighty problem regarding the implementation of the Social Security Law. You will recall that this was enacted into law by the Congress in 1954, and it was not until 1957 that the problem of its implementation cropped up and pressed itself for immediate presidential consideration. I was, so to speak, caught in a cross-fire of conflicting interests. On the one hand, representatives of management manifested their strong opposition to the law's immediate implementation; and on the other hand, the welfare and well-being of the workingman demanded recognition by way of the law's immediate implementation. At the risk of losing the support of those who stood against the law and endangering my election bid, I decided in favor of the defenseless workingman—I implemented the Social Security Law. I believed then as I believe now, that it is the workingman who needs and should receive government attention and protection.

This occasion, therefore, assumes for me something of significance and meaning. It represents not only a personal vindication of the decision I had taken on the matter, but also as a reaffirmation of the faith that the people of our country, particularly the working masses, have in the wisdom and merit of the Social Security Law.

In deciding to implement the Social Security Law, I was actuated further by the realization that it was high time that the workingmen started to enjoy more of the benefits of social justice as guaranteed and pledged to them by the supreme law of the land—our Constitution. I was also motivated by the hope that with the institution of social security in our country, we would be able to develop further a contented citizenry as well as a healthy and stable economy. It is one of my articles of faith that as the future of the workingman is insured, he acquires a sense of confidence and responsibility as a citizen and pride as a Filipino.

It is, therefore, with singular satisfaction to note that, in the little time the System has been in existence, it is beginning to realize several of its major objectives. For instance, the records show that a total of ₱50,703,388.00 of the System's funds was invested in the different well-established and responsible government and stable private institutions. This amount has tended to quicken the pulse-beat of our national economy and step up the pace of our march towards progress and prosperity. The records also show that almost ₱2 million have been paid out in death, disability, and sickness benefits. A detailed breakdown shows the following amounts having been paid out: ₱97,306.33 in sickness benefits; ₱296,173.67 in disability benefits; and ₱1,368,031.39 in death benefits.

Under the munificent dispensation of our social security law, a new era has been ushered in for the workingmen of this country. These figures will show that we have not been content merely in subscribing to the adage that there is nobility in labor. We have done more. Until recently, a great deal of lip-service was rendered to the workingmen and nothing more. Social justice was more of a dream than a reality, more of an ideal to be hoped for and yearned after. Under the aegis of our new Social Security Law, however, death has been robbed of some of the venom of its sting; misfortune, some of the horrors of its treachery; and old age, some of the anguish of its fears. The Administration is dedicated and committed to this social justice program and it will allow nothing and no one to stand in the way of its final fruition and fulfillment.

As I view the fast tempo of the growth of the System and as I size up its fast gathering strength, I feel that it is about ready to take a long stride forward toward helping its members to acquire a home of their own. This is a life-dream of every Filipino. "Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home," so goes an immortal song. I therefore call upon the Social Security Commission to start that study and efforts towards the realization of this laudable goal for the small man. You have any personal backing, the support of the Social Committee of the Senate, and of the Good Government Committee of the House. Let the new SSS slogan be: A Home for every member—the Hope of the Nation.

At this juncture, also, I desire to acknowledge publicly the self-effacing unselfishness of management without whose unstinted cooperation the blessings and benefits of the law would not be now enjoyed by our workers. In spite of the financial burden that the Social Security Law imposes, management readily responded by absorbing immediately the added financial responsibility. Thus, management has publicly recognized and accepted the salutary ends that the law seeks to accomplish—the advancement of the interests of society and those of the nation.

The institution of social security is one of the mainstays in our program of government. And I believe in this institution. I believe that it will not only secure and strengthen the social structure but also enhance and speed up the development of our national economy. I believe that if such institution has proved to be a boon to the peoples and governments of other countries, it should prove no less successful and beneficial in our own country. I believe that by instilling a sense of security in the workingman, we have thus strengthened the base of our society. I believe that, given the opportunity to grow with the years, our own Social Security System will have built itself up into a towering pillar of strength supporting the social security and required to dynamize the material advancement of our stability of our people as well as supplying the motive power nation.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1959). President Garcia's speech on the 2nd Anniversary of the Social Security System held Tuesday evening, September 1, 1959, at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(36), 7644-7646.

**Speech of President Garcia at the 11th National Convention of the Philippine Jaycees**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the 11th National Convention of the Philippine Jaycees**

[Delivered at St. Louis Auditorium, Baguio City, October 15, 1959]

MY FRIENDS:

“They are ill discoverers that think there is no land, when they see nothing but sea.”

I QUOTE from Bacon, one of the great thinkers of all time, from his *Advancement of Learning*.

Perhaps, one of the drawbacks to advancement in our own time in this our beloved country is negative thinking which is a vestige of colonial times when many of us accepted in resignation what we were taught in all subtlety that we were capable of only so much, and so far, and that we could not stand on our own without a mentor or a protector. The outcome has been atavism, into which the Filipino stragglers of colonial mentality would pull back or hold down the rest of the nation. Instead I urge that by and with a life of positive thinking, a life of faith, confidence and hope, and determination we can mould and achieve a great destiny as a sovereign state and as a free people.

With political independence achieved, we are now pursuing the economic *summum bonum* for ourselves and our country. I like to repeat here what I said in my first message to Congress, viz: “The faith of this nation is abiding; the spirit of this nation is mighty; the determination of this nation is invincible. On this rock of faith, with this spirit and determination, let us build the house of the nation.”

I hold firmly to this faith. But even as I speak before you, the voices of despair are active in the land. They seek to weaken our faith, undermine our courage, and sap our determination. They spread dissension and promote strife in the willful and deliberate effort to wreck the very foundations of the house of the nation.

These voices belong to the opposition. They say our policies are confused. They say our policies are ineffective. They say that we are bringing the country into ruin.

But these false prophets find themselves rebuffed by incontrovertible realities.

I take this opportunity to report to the Filipino people that for the first time in post-war years and within only two years of the implementation of my economic policies, our country has achieved a favorable balance of trade in the amount of ₱95.2 million as of July 31, 1959. There are definite indications of the heartening upswing of trade in our favor auguring a 100-million peso favorable balance of trade by the end of this year.

Now, this favorable balance of trade is not an accident. It is a direct consequence of the economic policies of the Nacionalista administration implemented wisely and courageously.

Let me remind this convention that in 1949, considered the peak year of the Liberal administration, our unfavorable balance of trade went up to the staggering amount of ₱676 million. When the Nacionalista administration took over in 1954, we inherited from the Liberals still a huge deficit in our foreign trade which we gradually overcame until this year of 1959 when we turned the tide from minus to plus by registering in the first seven months a surplus I mentioned before, 95 million pesos, with the bright prospect of going over the ₱100 million mark at the end of the year.

When the Nacionalista Administration took over the reins of government at the end of 1953 by the overwhelming mandate of the people, the cause of economic development received fresh impetus. It was clearly recognized that without development there could be no economic independence, and without economic independence the fruits of political freedom could never fully be ours. Therefore, the new Administration triggered an acceleration of the development program. The government deliberately cultivated an atmosphere conducive to economic expansion on all fronts. The public authority poured its expenditures into economic and social development projects—into dams and power-plants, irrigation systems, roads, bridges, portworks, technical schools—into the multitude of overhead facilities without which no healthy development can be sustained. Private enterprise was encouraged to establish and build its factories and firms in industry and extend its productive activities in agriculture. Those who would enter production were accorded preferential treatment in the form of easy industrial and rural credits, tax concessions and subsidies, marketing aids, priority in the use of dollars, and the protection of tariffs and import controls. The response of private enterprises to these policies surpassed our most optimistic expectations. A heartening upsurge of investments and industrial activity took place. Therefore, despite the inherent weaknesses of under-development aggravated by unfavorable influences from outside our borders, the country was able to push forward with great stride along the highway of progress.

As direct results of these wisely laid-down policies and courageously implemented plans we may be allowed to overstep the bounds of modesty and mention a few more of the outstanding achievements besides the first one, that of achieving a favorable balance of trade for the first time in postwar years:

1. The recent discovery of oil mines in Cebu where the first well yielded a daily output of 72 barrels of oil without the aid of a pump. Oil experts predict that this well will easily fall as Class A-1 oil well under American standards. The Administration immediately put the resources of the Central Bank behind this 100% Filipino oil mining company to enable it to expand as rapidly as possible its program of oil digging. The oil era of the Philippines has thus commenced under most auspicious circumstances. If the Venezuelan Bolivar (equivalent to our peso) has become stronger even than the dollar where the only pillar of its national economy is oil, there is ample reason to hope that the Philippine currency should grow even stronger, as, besides oil, our national economy has several other pillars; such as, sugar, copra, hemp, tobacco, timber, minerals, and very soon steel.

2. I am happy to report also to you, that as of October 14, 1959, the peso in the Hongkong money market has risen in value by 53 pts. This is considered a spectacular rise taking into account the fact that when the margin bill was discussed in Congress, the peso value with reference to the Hongkong dollar was 1.27 and now it has risen to 1.80 with some indication of rising still. This means that with the passage of the stabilization measures the most important of which is the so-called dollar margin bill, the Philippine currency has gained stability which is being the most recognized by the whole world.

3. I am also happy to announce that the dollar reserves of this country has risen to \$168 million where it was only around \$130 million during the discussion of the dollar margin bill.

4. As you all know, one of the surest gauges of economic progress is the gross national product. When the Liberal regime came to an end in 1953, the gross national product was over ₱8 billion. By the end of 1957, the first four years of the Nacionalista regime, our national product skyrocketed to over ₱10 billion. In 1958, the spectacular rise under the Nacionalista husbanding of the national economy continued and we chalked up a gross national product of 10 billion, 464 million pesos showing an increase of two billion 462 million pesos in five years.

5. Another index of economic growth is in the fields of agriculture, manufacturing, and mining.

I submit to you figures not only from our own statistics but also from the statistics of the United Nations. Since 1954 when the Nacionalista took over, our agriculture production has advanced by 35.1%, mining has registered an increase of 50.2%, while manufacturing production, achieved a remarkable 73.7% improvement. In modern times these advances are without parallel in any part of the world. On the overall, production in all fields has increased three times.

6. Another significant indicator of the pickup of economic activity is the number of new business establishments set up. Since 1953, the records show that a total of 35,520 business firms were organized and registered for operation, about 4,000 of them in the first six months of 1959 alone. Would this be possible, if as some of our critics' claim, the economy is stagnating and business is coming to a standstill?

7. If our critics are right, how account then for the tremendous growth in banking facilities? Banks are not set up and expanded unless adequate commercial and industrial activity require their services. Today there are 18 commercial banks and 128 rural banks serving the people throughout the country as compared 15 commercial banks and 18 rural banks in 1953. Consequently, total resources have grown tremendously from ₱1.26 billion in 1953 to ₱2.23 billion as of the end of June this year showing an increase of ₱970 million. In addition, more than 500 ACGFA cooperative marketing associations throughout the islands now serve the rural areas with credit, marketing, and modern warehousing facilities compared to the 120 units in 1953.

8. The administration's professional critics have charged the Nacionalista administration for the rise of prices of all commodities in this country. Before a crowd of business-minded youth such as this I need not state that this upward trend in prices is a world trend not a local one. The world economy of which we are only a segment is the root cause in the rise in prices. But I would like to emphasize the fact that this world-wide upward trend in prices has given us more benefit than disadvantages. Let me cite you actual instances. In 1958 a quintal of copra (100 kls.) cost ₱37.70; today it costs ₱51.12 or a benefit in our favor of ₱13.42 per quintal. Hemp per picul, was ₱39.43 in 1958; now it is ₱55.26, or a benefit in your favor of ₱15.83 per picul.

Coconut oil per quintal (100 kls.) in 1958 was ₱65; it is now ₱86, or a benefit in our favor of ₱21 per quintal. Desiccated coconut per quintal in 1958; ₱63, now ₱77.59, or a benefit of ₱14.59 per quintal. When we take into account that for the first half of 1959, our total exports aggregate value was ₱539 million as compared to ₱461 million for the same period in 1958, or a gain of ₱78 million, whereas our imports for the same period in 1958 showed decrease of ₱98 million, we can readily see that the upward trend in prices has been to our advantage as a whole.

9. The 9th achievement along economic line which I consider of vital importance is the achievement within one year of my administration of self-sufficiency in food. For many decades the Philippines has always imported rice to supplement its home production in feeding the population. We spent millions for the importation of food, but in 1958 we reversed history. We have achieved self-sufficiency in food and this year the Cabinet authorized the NARIC to export to Japan 24,000 metric tons of rice and 8,000 metric tons of corn. We have in the NARIC bodega a surplus stock of 2 million cavans of rice above our national requirement for food. The progress report of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources predicts another bumper crop this year which will swell the surplus of rice and corn. Again, our achievement in this line has reversed history from that of a rice importing country to that of a rice exporting one. My friends, this alone would entitle the Nacionalista administration to a reaffirmation of confidence by the Filipino people.

10. Another achievement of this administration wrought with big possibilities is the establishment of a Philippine merchant marine under Act No. 1407. Let us not forget that the Philippines has only a total of 57,000 tons of Philippine registry engaged in foreign shipping. As a result of that, only 5 per cent of our foreign trade, that is, exports and imports, are carried in Philippine bottoms and 97 per cent are carried by vessels of foreign registry. When we take into account that in 1958 the aggregate value of our foreign trade was in round figures ₱2 billion, we will realize how many millions of pesos the country pays for freight to foreign countries. So we started an ambitious program of expanding our foreign shipping. We ordered 12 vessels of 10,000 tons each to contract with Japanese shipbuilders and another 15 vessels of 10,000 tons each through the reparations agreement which will give us an additional total of 270,000 tons of foreign shipping, which added to what we have, sum up to 327,000 tons. Our goal is to have an aggregate total tonnage of 500,000 tons. My friends, by this achievement we expect to have a tremendous boost of our foreign trade and save hundreds of millions of dollars in freight which henceforth will go to Philippine shipping firms. Ships flying Philippine flags will sail in the seven seas of the world carrying our exports, and homeward bound, carrying our imports, thereby triggering a new era of foreign trade expansion which will certainly break all previous records.



My friends, these 11 achievements of the Nacionalista administration, modesty aside, constitute glowing chapters in the saga of our economic development. But the Nacionalistas are not satisfied with material progress alone. We are also devoting a great part of our efforts in trying to lift up the moral and cultural heritage of the nation. So right after the inception of my administration, we announced an unrelenting campaign against graft and corruption mostly inherited from the previous administration of the Liberals, and we are proud to announce that in one year and seven months of anti-graft campaign we produced results of which the Nacionalista Party can be proud. Here are the figures which I would like to submit to your consideration. During that period of time, 1958-1959, without fanfare we prosecuted a total of 11,870 cases of all types of venalities and corruption. Of this more than 50 per cent had been decided or roughly 6,000 cases, and 4,000 cases were found guilty and punished in varying degrees according to the gravity of the guilts committed. Incidentally, among those found guilty and punished accordingly are one undersecretary of department, two bureau directors, justices of the peace, fiscals, and officials in various government-owned or controlled corporations, etc. One bureau director, two assistant bureau directors are yet under suspension. On the other hand, the extravagant promises of the Liberal Party to put up a clean, honest, and graftless administration if returned to power would sound empty and hallow in the face of their record of eight years of lethargic inaction and complicity in an unparalleled era of graft, corruption, and terrorism in election.

Before I conclude, permit me to discuss certain other policies which have bearing upon issues in the forthcoming elections. Presently I would commend to your support and cooperation the Administration's program to spread more of the fruits of our progressing economy to the people. We have urged the channelling of investments to the provinces and encouraged the dispersal of industrial enterprises away from the traditional centers of population whenever feasible. Such developments would bring employment and technical opportunities to provincial workers, provide income not only for the provincial governments but to the area as a whole, stimulate trade and commerce, and consequently benefit local living conditions. This is our policy of dispersal. I am gratified to report that in line with our proposals, many industries have seen fit to establish their main plants in different parts of the country. Thus we have nail factories in Cebu and Negros Occidental, glassware in Rizal, metal products manufacturing in Bohol, tin can manufacturers in Bulacan and Davao City, a cassava flour mill in Lanao, a rubber plantation project in Zamboanga, soap plants in Pangasinan and Laguna, cement plants in La Union, Iloilo, Cebu, and Mindoro, and other industrial concerns in practically every province in the archipelago. Continuing cooperation from the business communities all over the country is a must if the government is to succeed not only in the prosecution of economic development, but also in the distribution of its benefits to every Filipino.

Another important policy in which the Nacionalista administration is deeply committed is the so-called Filipino First policy. Charges of insincerity in the implementation of Administration's Filipino First policy have been made in the press and on political platforms. In answer, let me cite the bare facts. To the accusation that dollar allocations for Filipino businessmen are declining, I have this to say. The Central Bank which is the specific agency in charge of exchange allocation reports that while Filipino quota-holders received 39 per cent of total regular allocations in 1953, they received 44 per cent in 1958 and 51 per cent during the first semester this year. Americans were the next most favored groups, getting 26 per cent of the allocations in 1953, 36 per cent in 1958, and 34 per cent during the first half of 1959. On the other hand, the share of the Chinese which came to 20 per cent in 1953, dropped to 10 per cent in 1958 and 7.5 per cent from January to June this year. The share of other nationalities which came to 7 per cent in 1953, also fell to 2 per cent in 1958 and to less than 1 per cent in 1959.

I also wish to cite the percentage share of Filipinos in the capital investments of newly registered business. While 72 per cent of the investments of newly registered firms during 1953 belonged to Filipinos, in 1958 the share of Filipinos was 76 per cent; during the first semester this year it climbed to 81 per cent. The Chinese who were responsible for 24 per cent of the investments in 1953, accounted for 21 per cent in 1958 and only 18 per cent in 1959. Investment share of Americans and other nationalities have remained relatively the same.

Can the Filipino First policy then be a farce? Is the Filipino First policy anti-American or anti-anybody? Has the Administration raised the policy only for campaign purposes? The truth is that actually the Administration has plunged into the task of placing our growing progressive economy into the hands of our citizens. The facts speak for themselves.

I must say at least a few words about the foreign policy of the Nacionalista administration. I am proud to say the international prestige of the Philippines has been growing steadily in recent years. Our voice in international

councils has gained more admiration and greater respect for the Nacionalist Party. My state visits to the United States in June of last year, to Japan in December of last year, and to Vietnam in April of this year have given fulfillment and more lasting publicity to our relations with the United States, Japan, and Vietnam. As a result of these successes, the Philippine Republic received invitations from many countries in Asia, like Korea, Nationalist China, Malaya, and Indonesia for its president to make state visits to those countries. Even European countries like Spain, France, England, and Italy have invited the Philippine president to make state visits to those great European countries. Recently, the diplomatic negotiations between Foreign Affairs Secretary Serrano and Ambassador Bohlen on the question of the military bases produced tangible results which not only raised the national pride of the Philippines but also re-established on firmer and more enduring foundation the Philippine-American friendship, a friendship cultivated though 50 years of American and Philippine statesmen and patriots, and passed the acid test of two world wars. Out of these negotiations we reaped the following happy results:

1. The return to the Philippine Republic of all inactive bases.
2. The reduction of the period of lease from 99 years under the 1947 bases treaty negotiated by the Liberals to 25 years.
3. The delimitation of the bases retained by the American government which the Liberals negotiated bases treaty of 1947 were given without the determination of areas and boundaries.
4. The return to the Philippines of the title to the bases formerly claimed by the American Government.
5. The need of consultation with the Philippine Government for the use of the bases other than the defense of the Philippines.
6. The establishment of the mutual defense board composed of American and Filipino military men for the administration of the bases.
7. The need of consulting the Philippine Government before any missile launching stations (ICBM or JRM) is established in these bases.

All these achievements in foreign policy we can justly claim to have added to a better understanding and closer and more intimate relations with the United States by removing the causes of irritants. These achievements are neither Philippine victory nor American failure. It is the common triumph of two good friends—the Philippines and the United States—who in war have stood by each other and in peace have collaborated with each other for the cause of freedom and peace with honor and justice, and who will forever stand by each other for the cause of world peace.

In conclusion I would like to state to the members of this Jaycee convention that the Administration has kept faith with the Filipino people. It has dedicated itself to the difficult task of attaining the aspirations of the masses of our people. The Nacionalista Party from 1907 the year of its birth, to 1946 led the Filipino nation in its great fight for freedom and independence. Now the same Nacionalista Party is leading fearlessly and relentlessly in the great fight for economic independence. I submit that the Nacionalista Party has chalked up considerable achievements in this respect, the most outstanding of which I had succinctly summarized in my remarks. In all humility I submit to you the plea for re-affirmation of your confidence in my administration which I assure you will lead our beloved country to new frontiers of progress and vaster horizons of accomplishments.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1959). President Garcia's speech at the 11th National Convention of the Philippine Jaycees at St. Louis Auditorium, Baguio City, October 15, 1959. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(37), 7907-7915.

**Speech of President Garcia on commemorating the 15th anniversary of the landing of the Liberation Forces**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
On commemorating the 15th anniversary of the landing of the Liberation Forces**

[Delivered in Tacloban City, October 20, 1959]

MY COUNTRYMEN:

FIFTEEN years ago today the free world was thrilled by the stirring news that the American forces had at last landed on Philippine soil. In fulfillment of a solemn promise previously made by her acknowledged leaders, America had resolutely fought her way, island by island, until finally she reached our shores to deliver our country and people from the clutches of the enemy. There had been days when our hopes were getting dim as the occupation stretched out into months and then into years. Enemy propaganda had kept dinning into our ears the idea that America would never return, that she would liberate the countries of Europe but would leave the countries of Asia to their fate. However, in spite of everything, we clung steadfastly to the belief that America would redeem her plighted word. We were not disappointed, for she did come. On that rainy October morning General Douglas MacArthur and former President Sergio Osmeña waded ashore together as the head of glorious American forces of liberation symbolized that act historically the unity of purpose of the two countries they represented. The landing of these two great leaders seemed to signify that, as our two peoples had gone down in temporary defeat two and a half years before, so could they now stand proudly together on that momentous occasion to usher in the reality of victory.

The landing in Leyte was fraught with significance for the Filipino people. For one thing, it meant the beginning of the liberation of the Filipinos from the untold hardships and sacrifices which we had stoutly borne ever since we came under enemy control. It meant the end of the mental agony and the painful uncertainty under which we had been living during the long and terrifying night of the enemy occupation. For another thing, it meant the end of house searches and forced labor, of tortures and executions. No longer were our people to be subjected to all kinds of indignities. No longer were our crops and our animals to be forcibly commandeered in order to feed the occupation forces while many of our people starved. All of these were to come to an end because the Supreme Commander of the American troops had vowed to destroy every vestige of enemy control over our country and to restore the liberties of our people. And he made good that pledge.

And so it is no wonder that, everywhere the American soldiers went, they were received with unrestrained rejoicing and jubilation. Men, women, and children met and greeted them as heroes and saviors. The people, whether in stately mansions or in humble nipa shacks, welcomed them into their homes and gave them a taste of Filipino hospitality. Thus the long standing friendship between the American and the Filipino peoples, which had been tested in the crucible of war, was further strengthened through social contact at the advent of peace.

One decade and a half have passed since the American landing in Leyte. In the meantime events of great import have taken place in our country. For one thing, we have attained independent nationhood, with freedom to work out our own destiny as a people. In conformity with our newly acquired status, we have endeavored always to assert and defend our rights as a sovereign nation. We have determined to establish friendly relations with other nations on the basis of dignity, equality, and honor. And we have tried our best to give our own people ample opportunity to enjoy those rights which are theirs by reason of their being citizens of the Philippine Republic. All of these are manifestations of a strong spirit of nationalism that has swept and is sweeping across the length and breadth of the land. This spirit is making itself felt in the principal fields of human activity. It is in the political field, as may be seen in the desire of our people to assert our right to enjoy all the attributes of sovereignty. It is in the economic field, as evidenced by the demand of our people for a greater share of our national economy than they are now enjoying. More than ever, the conviction is gaining ground that political independence will have but little meaning without economic independence. Nationalism is also manifesting itself in various forms in the field of education and culture.

However, neither our political separation from the United States nor the upsurge of nationalism in our midst can serve to dissolve or weaken the ties of friendship and goodwill which have closely bound our two countries together for more than half a century. On the contrary, these ties will endure and will even grow stronger across the surging decades because they have been sanctified by the blood of the American and the Filipino soldiers who fought bravely side by side in defense of a common cause—the cause of democracy, and in peace these are consecrated by the solidarity of our two countries for universal freedom and universal peace.

World War Two is over. As in the case of the first world war, democracy won over totalitarianism. However, this is no time for smug complacency, for once more history is repeating itself. The first world war was fought in order to make the world safe for democracy. The war was won, but democracy was not made safe, for a new danger soon arose which finally led to the second world war. In the same way democracy is today being menaced anew, this time by a new type of totalitarianism. As we look without and within our borders, we see insidious forces at work, threatening the safety of those institutions which we hold dear. As a result, two conflicting ideologies are today struggling for supremacy—one under which the State controls the actions and even the spiritual life of the individual, and the other under which the individual enjoys freedom of thought and action under the law.

In this struggle we have decided to cast our lot with the second. We have rejected Communism, with its materialistic theory of the nature of the human being. Instead, we have embraced democracy and its underlying principle of respect for human personality. We believe that democracy is the form of government and way of life which will serve us best. It is the form of government which our people chose when they approved the Malolos Constitution in 1899 and it is the form of government chosen by our delegates when they approved the present Constitution in 1935. Our decision, therefore, to adopt democracy as a form of government and as a way of life is clear and categorical and any attempt on the part of anyone to mislead our people by telling them that any of the policies or acts of the administration is tainted with Communism is a disservice to the nation. I strongly urge every Filipino to rally behind the government in its efforts to make democracy a living reality in our country.

My friends it is well that on this day we pause from our labors in commemoration of that glorious event which signalized the liberation of our country. On this solemn occasion let us remember the soldiers and men who made our liberation possible; in particular, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Commander of the American forces, General Douglas MacArthur, whose feat will forever stand, out as one of the greatest in the annals of military history, And let us not forget those of our own countrymen who, through their activities in the resistance movement, kept alive the spirit of our people until the day of their deliverance. All of them deserve the gratitude of a grateful people.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1959). The President's speech in Tacloban City on October 20, 1959, commemorating the 15th anniversary of the landing of Liberation Forces. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(43), 9021-9023.

**Statement: President Garcia on inaugurating the UPI Radio Teletype Service Statement of President Carlos P. Garcia:**

On inaugurating the UPI Radio Telephone Service

[Delivered on October 17, 1959]

THE ESTABLISHMENT of a radioteletype circuit to serve primarily Asian countries ushers in a new era in multination exchange of communication. It is a history-making step toward the attainment of closer association and more active cooperation among governments and peoples of Asia. The service to be rendered by this new circuit will make for faster dissemination of information and, consequently, better understanding among nations of the region. It will be an invaluable service to the cause of international peace and harmony.

Asia today is a new Asia in the eyes of the world. Since their emergence, from colonial status soon after the termination of the last world war, Asian nations have taken active participation in world affairs. Asia's role in international activities is helped into prominence by the circumstance that in recent years the region has been the seat of events which drew into focus the attention of the entire world. The war in Korea, the bloody armed conflict in Indo-China, the bombardment of the islands off the coast of mainland China, the rebellion in Indonesia, the Pathet Lao uprising in Laos, the Tibetan affair, the current Sino-Indian border controversy—all these have served to attract international attention to this part of the world.

Asia has a definite place in international affairs. It necessarily has to play a significant part in the conduct of international relations. Being the home of more than half of the world's population, its peoples should be kept abreast of international developments and human progress through an effective communication. And the radioteletype circuit will be of immense help in this regard.

The Philippines feels highly elated over the selection of Manila as the site of the circuit headquarters. It has a good reason for being proud of the selection. For this honor, we are very thankful to United Press International.

The new enterprise will be a useful contribution to the work of carrying out our policy of further strengthening our relations with our Asian neighbors. It will be a distinct achievement of United Press International, for which we wish the best of success.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1959). Statement of President Garcia on inaugurating the UPI Radio Teletype Service, October 17, 1959. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(42), 8839.

## **Speech of President Garcia at the United Nations dinner**

### **Speech of His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia President of the Philippines At the United Nations dinner**

[Delivered at Winter Garden, Manila Hotel, October 24, 1959]

THE thickening shadows of continued mistrust among nation's and the grave implications of recent incursions into outer space as part of the huge armament among nations, brood over the world today as it celebrates the fourteenth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Organization. First conceived in hope by the Great Powers in order that peoples may know and enjoy an enduring peace, the Organization has grown slowly through years of dissension and recurrent clashes that brought the world perilously close to war. That it has so far succeeded in averting an open conflict gives rise to the renewed hope that the United Nations with its essential role as a force for mediation might yet dispel the shadows and help the world emerge into the brighter light of peace.

If one were to examine the balance sheet of the achievements of the United Nations, one is heartened by the important gains it has made in all fields of human endeavor in spite of the serious setbacks the Organization has met on political levels. More significantly it has given meaning and validity to the true concept of universal harmony: a shared kinship among the human race irrespective of barriers erected by men. This kinship arises from a common and spontaneous desire for peace, for the right to live, free from the oppressive circumstances of economic pressures, and for the preservation of human dignity.

We in the Philippines, like the rest of the small nations, have a special stake in the United Nations. Incapable of defending ourselves adequately in the event of a nuclear war, we look to the Organization to check the evil forces that threaten our way of life. Economically insufficient, we have recourse to its expanded technical assistance programmes.

Not very long ago, deteriorating political situation in Laos gave our people reason for deep concern. The explosion of what seemed at first an internal problem would have had tragic repercussions not only in the Far East but throughout the entire world as well. Without fanfare, but almost with dramatic promptness, the United Nations sent a team of investigators to the tiny kingdom and thereby halted what might have been a disastrous conflagration, as it did in the dispute between Lebanon and Jordan a few years back. Also relatively recent was the systematic despoliation of fundamental human rights in Tibet and which moved the governments of Ireland and Malaya to sponsor a resolution condemning Communist China's violation of fundamental human right of the Tibetan people. In 1956, a United Nations Expeditionary Force was dispatched to the Suez Canal to forestall what could have precipitated an open conflict among the great powers. Perhaps less positively effective in the sad case of Hungary, the United Nations, nevertheless, brought to the attention of a shocked world the inhumanity and brazen character of Communist suppression of a people aspiring for the right to conduct their own way of existence. And by 1955, ten years after its founding, the United Nations had chalked up to its credit measures which it had taken throughout the Far East and the Middle east to ease situations that constituted a threat to international peace. It was instrumental in the solution of the dispute between the Netherlands and Indonesia. It had halted a full-scale war in Korea through the timely creation of a United Command under the United States and subsequently maintained peace in this area through the establishment of the Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of an independent Korea in the South. In the protracted negotiations between the Governments of India and Pakistan regarding the accession of Jammu and Kashmir, the United Nations succeeded in bringing about a temporary cessation of hostilities between the two countries. Its moral influence has, time and again, been a moderating force in heated disputes involving at one time or another, Formosa, Burma, Thailand, Cambodia, Palestine, Cyprus, and the Republic of China. In Europe and Africa, it had encouraged the sober discussions of numerous delicate and sensitive issues, including the question of race conflict in South Africa as a result of the *Apartheid*, the Tunisian and Morocco questions, and the Algerian agitation for independence.

The dynamic quality of the United Nations in developing and adopting procedures for the solution of conflicts arising in various sectors of the world has therefore counteracted the discouraging fact that so many problems still await solution.

On the economic and social levels, the Organization has been an even more potent instrument of world peace. Deeply cognizant of the importance of economic welfare in the establishment of enduring peace, the United Nations and its specialized agencies have continuously studied prevailing international commercial policies. Since 1952, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council have given considerable attention to international trade questions and particularly to the possibility of expanding world trade. The United Nations has, consequently, drawn attention to the farsighted wisdom of removing existing trade obstacles and the development of inter-regional commercial cooperation.

The Philippines, for one, has benefited yearly from the technical assistance programmes of the United Nations since its founding. This year, Philippine requests for such assistance in the continuance, in existing or modified forms, of U. N. and Specialized Agencies Projects amounted to \$407,000. Aside from existing fellowship grants in varied fields of study, the Philippines derives invaluable advice from U. N. technical experts among whom are those on statistical work, economic surveys, industrial development and productivity, house and town planning from the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration; experts on plant production and protection, animal production and disease control, rural welfare, agricultural economics, forestry development, land use management from the Food and Agricultural Organization; science teaching and scientific documentation from the UNESCO, civil aviation from the International Civil Aviation Organization, schistosomiasis pilot control, hygiene and public health from the World Health Organization.

As you are well aware of, the United Nations expanded program is geared towards helping under-developed countries "to strengthen their national economies through the development of their industries and agriculture, with a view to promoting their economic and political independence in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, and to insure the attainment of higher levels of economic and social welfare for their entire populations." Contributions to the expanded program are voluntary. Since July 1950, eighty-five governments have paid or pledged approximately 200 million dollars. For its part, the United Nations gives, partly under a program financed from its budget and partly under the Expanded Program, expert technical advice in the fields of economic development, public administration, social welfare, and the broad field of human rights to countries which ask for it. Fellowships pilot projects, regional training, and demonstration centres and seminars are offered to train nationals of the requesting countries in these fields. Most specialized agencies also carry out additional technical assistance projects using part of their own regular annual budget to finance the projects. More than 10,000 experts of whom 6500 were provided under the Expanded Program, have been sent to 125 countries and territories on a broad variety of schemes.

United Nations Day, however, is not so much an occasion for recapitulating the achievements as it is for the reaffirmation of faith in the principles and objectives for which the Organization stands. In spite of dreary and profitless wranglings which have impeded its steady progress in providing a framework for negotiations of disputes, the United Nations has opened new vistas of international cooperation. Its growth from fifty-one to eighty-two members is not without significance. Nations have come to place greater value on United Nations membership and now actively contribute to the stream of experience, thought and culture from which the Organization draws its collective inspiration and strength.

We in the Philippines are cognizant of the overriding necessity for an effective foreign policy geared towards security and economic self-sufficiency in consonance with the principles enunciated in the Charter of the United Nations. We are equally aware that as a member of the brotherhood of nations, our best guarantees for ultimate peace lie in the harmonious blending of our ways of life with those of others, in the spirit of tolerance and comprehensive humanity. In this manner, we shall be helping in a practical manner to give clarity and meaning to the universal concept of unity that the United Nations stands for.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1959). Speech of President Garcia at the United Nations dinner, Winter Garden, Manila Hotel, at 8:30 p.m. October 24, 1959. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(43), 9023-9027.



**Speech of President Garcia during a 'Pass in Review' in honor of Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief's 63rd birthday anniversary**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
During a 'Pass in Review' by the Armed Forces in honor of their Commander-in-Chief's 63rd birthday anniversary**

[Delivered at Camp Murphy, November 4, 1959]

**OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE ARMED FORCES:**

FIRST of all, I wish to congratulate you once again for your magnificent display of soldiery as you passed in review. The precision with which you made every step and every turn speaks eloquently of your military training and, what is more important, it shows your high sense of mission and devotion to duty. This makes me particularly proud of the leadership in our Armed Forces today.

It is universally accepted that in peace as well as in war the Armed Forces of any nation is entrusted with the sacred duty of protecting the people's freedom. This duty includes the defense of ideals and principles that are the fountainhead of that freedom.

As your Commander-in-Chief, I wish to make it clear once again that this duty entrusted to you is to the sovereign people and to no one else.

I accept therefore the renewal of your pledge of loyalty as President of our Republic in behalf of the 23 million Filipinos. In accepting this pledge of loyalty, I want to make it emphatically clear that it is your pledge of loyalty to our people that I accept. I also accept this pledge of loyalty in behalf of our people, convinced that such a pledge is spontaneous and without any taint of compulsion. Officers and men of the Armed Forces, I want you to know that if I had any doubt at all about the nature and spontaneity of your pledge of loyalty, I would have outright rejected it. This is my concept of loyalty for the Armed Forces.

Against the backdrop of this renewal of your pledge of loyalty, I shall discuss with you very briefly and frankly one of the most delicate tasks you are presently being asked to perform—the task of assisting the Commission on Elections in ensuring a peaceful, orderly, and clean elections. At the very outset, I wish to underscore the fact that you are merely called upon to assist the proper civilian government entity, the Commission on Elections, in the discharge of its duty of conducting and supervising the national elections. As such, your actuations must be within the framework laid down by the Commission.

You are being asked specifically to ensure a free movement of the nation's qualified voters, in the exercise of their right of suffrage on election day. Remember that you are to insure a free movement of *all* qualified voters regardless of party affiliation. It becomes clear, therefore, that the greatest crime you can commit is to show partiality to one group over another.

The other equally important task you have been asked to perform is to provide security of the various installations designated by the Commission on Elections, and this includes security of the people's precious treasure—their ballots inside the ballot boxes. This is indeed a sacred task and its importance cannot be over-emphasized. I expect you to guard it with your life if needs be. As your Commander-in-Chief, I urge you to do no less.

In the discharge of this kind of duty, it would be normal for you to expect roadblocks in variegated forms as you proceed with your assigned mission. You will be wooed, intimidated, and subjected to the normal pressures attendant in any electoral contest. I urge you to resist any pressure or influence which may be exerted on you by any

one. I want to assure you my support for any action you have to take in furtherance of your mission. This assurance includes my support to you regardless of party affiliation. Do not waver in what you think and judge to be a correct action just because the offender is a member of the Nacionalista Party to which I belong. I want you to discharge your duties fairly, justly, and fearlessly.

The eyes of our people and, if I may add, the rest of the world, will surely watch your performance with keen interest in this your peacetime mission. The successful and effective accomplishment of your mission will certainly increase our stature as a young and growing Republic. It will surely increase the faith of our own people and those of our friends abroad in the efficacy of our Philippine democracy. It will also serve as a warning to the Communists in this country and their comrades abroad that our free institutions have become the bulwark of freedom and shall not be shaken even by the subtlety of Communist blandishments.

Should you fail or even fall short of the expectations of our people, you will have weakened not only our governmental structure but our way of life. Freedom as we know it today will become meaningless. We shall be held suspect by our friends abroad while the enemies of our Republic shall rejoice, as your failure will be exploited to the maximum for their own evil purposes.

Indeed, your task is sacred. You cannot afford to fail I am confident you will not fail. Remember you have a glorious past to uphold. Let not those who have come before you point an accusing finger at you for having failed.

In passing, may I take this opportunity of announcing to you my approval of the recommendation of your Chief of Staff and the Secretary of National Defense to implement Republic Act No. 1831, providing for the payment of salary differential to the enlisted personnel. I want you to know that I shall continue to look with favor any proposal for the welfare of the personnel of the Armed Forces, particularly the enlisted personnel who constitute the backbone of our Armed Forces.

Finally, my friends, as a parting message and in response to your pledge of loyalty to our people, may I ask you to do your utmost in the various tasks we as a young nation must do. Have faith in your leaders; have faith in our people; have faith in our free institutions; have faith in your own ability to contribute your just share in the healthy growth of our national life.

Mrs. Garcia joins me in thanking you all for your kind felicitations on my birthday anniversary. You have made me much happier.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1959). The President's speech at Camp Murphy during a 'Pass in Review' held by the Armed Forces in honor of their Commander-in-Chief on the occasion of his 63rd birthday anniversary, November 4, 1959. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(45), 9424-9426.

**Speech of President Garcia before the labor leaders**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
Before the labor leaders**

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel on November 6, 1959]

SECRETARY  
LABOR LEADERS OF THE PHILIPPINES:

CASTAÑO,

THIS is the first time, in our short but checkered career as a nation and as a Republic, that one of the most elemental forces that propel progress has been massed in such numbers in one hall as to brook no argument that at last, in our country, this elemental force has come into its own.

I refer to the force of the workers organized.

I make no attempt to flatter you, gentlemen of organized labor. The time has indeed come, when no one, not anyone, can dare ignore, or be indifferent to the workers as a leading and decisive, social and political force in our country.

Let the record of the past few years bear witness to the validity of this statement.

In 1953, the last year under the Liberal Party regime, there were a little more than 800 trade unions in the Philippines. When the Nacionalista Party took over the reins of government in 1954, a big boost was given to organized free labor that, today, the free and democratic trade unions have attained a spectacular total of more than 3,000 organizations scattered throughout all the industries and trades.

Without intending to minimize the favorable influence of the law known as the Magna Charta of Labor, the Nacionalista Party regime marked a period of determined effort by our government to promote the growth of democratic trade unionism and to keep civil liberties, particularly the right to freedom of association, untrammelled and complete.

I cite the record of the past few years, not to impress you, for you know the record as well as I do, but rather to fix certain facts in the foreground as we essay on to analyze the role of labor in the fulfillment of our aspirations as a people.

I feel deeply that the nation should be told of what the Administration has done to raise the standard of the labor mass in our country.

Let us now essay further into the role of present-day workers in the building of our country.

You, Ladies and Gentlemen, the leaders of Philippine Labor, can proudly claim a rich and colorful tradition. For you are, in a historical sense, the descendants of Andres Bonifacio and the *Katipunans*.

It was mostly the Filipino workers of Manila and the surrounding towns who, at Balintawak, raised the prophetic cry heralding Asian Nationalism of the 20th century. Remember that the Katipunan Revolution was a revolt of our masses. The Filipino masses made the first nationalist and social revolution in the long ages of Asia's colonial hibernation, foreshadowing with remarkable exactness the shape and content of the Asian revolution in our own time.

The Revolution of 1896 was unique in more than one sense. Our people rose and fought predominantly with bolos and *talibongs* against the modern arms, the overwhelming firepower, of the enemy. Implicit in this is not only a courage of the highest order, but the capacity to invent, to improvise, and to achieve great things in a small physical capital, the true measures of a people's greatness! It is this genius and this spirit, which stamped the Filipinos of an earlier day, that we seek to resurrect today in the hearts and minds of our people. To do this, we must appeal to the patriotic sentiments of our people, sometime dormant, which in earlier times goaded a small, just-born nation of less than ten million souls to deeds of daring and greatness that fill our hearts—the Filipinos of today—with admiration and humility.

The foremost task which the generation of Rizal, Bonifacio, Mabini, and Jacinto set out to accomplish was the task of political emancipation of the Filipino people. Underlying this aim was their desire for the economic and social well-being of their countrymen. This was their primary and ultimate objective; and in the beginning, the intellectuals of our reform movement under Spain thought that this objective—the economic and social well-being of the Filipinos—could be accomplished by making the Philippines a province of Spain, in the same manner that the Federalistas during the early days of the American occupation believed that the national aspirations of our people could be realized by making the Philippines one of the states of the American Union.

It is a credit to our genius as a people that both our masses and their leaders realized in the past, as they do today, that the keys to fruitful and purposeful self-determination lie not in political tyranny and economy enslavement, nor yet in political freedom and economic bondage, nor still yet, in political serfdom and economic being; but they realized that fruitful and purposeful self-determination can spring only from untrammelled political freedom coupled with economic emancipation and social well-being.

It is for this reason that the twentieth century has been and will be for us a century of fighting for freedom. Its first fifty years, heralded by the Cry of Balintawak which also sounded out the Cry for Freedom in this part of the world, saw our fight for political freedom come to fruition.

Political self-determination for us has been substantially accomplished.

The next fifty years of the twentieth century will see the Filipino people waging a relentless and determined war for economic emancipation. Already, the call-to-arms in this battle has been sounded by our people and my administration. Already, the battle lines are being drawn. The outcome of this struggle will determine whether the Filipino people are fit to live in a free world of free men.

If I may digress a bit, I would like to point out to you the role of the Nacionalista Party, of which I am proud to be a part, and of which I have the honor to be the present titular head, in these great Filipino fights of the twentieth century.

The fight for political freedom was largely won by our people under the leadership of the Nacionalista Party. Here is a party dedicated to freedom and to the welfare of the common man.

When political freedom was finally won, the nation's administration temporarily passed into the hands of the Liberal Party. The confusion and misgovernment of those first years of independence, coupled with that administration's blatant disregard for the welfare of the common *tao*, precipitated an armed revolution against our duly constituted authorities instigated by professional agitators working for an ideology that was seeking to destroy our way of life, but who nevertheless gained adherents because of the discontent among our masses.

This was the state of affairs then, because the Liberal Party failed to give direction and meaning to our aspirations as a people. "Whither are we going," could very well have been the question of the day.

It was only after the Nacionalista Party got back into power in 1954 that our aspirations as a people again took shape and acquired meaning. Again, we had something to strive for as a nation under God.

First of these aspirations was the well-being of the common *tao*. This received full attention during the term of our late beloved President Magsaysay. Since I assumed the Presidency, new projects have been added, especially in the rural areas where the great number of feeder roads and community projects have served to improve the living standards of our brothers in the fields.

The Nacionalista administration has also turned its sight to other problems just as pressing, for it is our primary goal to achieve economic emancipation during the second fifty years of this century.

We, therefore, find the Nacionalista Party, championing successfully the cause of political freedom before this century was half-over and the same Nacionalista Party today championing the concomitant and indispensable adjunct of that freedom, economic emancipation.

It is in manifestation of these nationalist goals that the Nacionalista administration is dedicated to the creation of a balanced agro-industrial economy that will be capable of giving to all our people the blessings of a decent, full, and active life.

I intend that labor shall play a major role in the realization of our aims.

I, therefore, pledge to you, the leaders of the Filipino trade unions, that this Government under my leadership will continue the policy of encouraging, promoting, and assisting the development of free, democratic, and responsible trade unions in the Philippines.

I think some of you know that recently I incurred severe criticism when I upheld the validity of the strike duration pay principle, although the courts themselves have tended to shun this principle.

I like to hope that under my administration, labor can claim more extensive participation in the policy-making organs of government corporations and economic-planning agencies. I intend to draft more and more competent representatives of labor in positions of responsibility *in* the government in the days to come.

Because I also believe in raising the fitness of the rank and file, I intend to give all-out support to the leadership training programs of the University of the Philippines for union men. Our program of developing skilled manpower, which has greatly accelerated under this administration, will be effectively pursued. Our object is to be able to build up a reserve of technicians and skilled workers from among our own people so as to put an end, in due time, to the importation of technical experts from abroad.

I also take this occasion to assure you of my personal willingness to collaborate in new and more effective efforts to bring about the nationalization of labor in the Philippines, consistent with due process and the equal protection clause in our Constitution.

I stand opposed to any attempt to revise the Minimum Wage Law at this time, where the intention is to reduce wages. We do not intend to go back and nullify the hard-won gains of our workers in the legislative field, modest as these still are. In our march toward progress I would consider this a backward step!

The right to speak, write, organize freely shall remain inviolable under my administration. This right is one of the great objects of Filipino nationalist struggle and I intend that it remains secure.

I ask your support in my own modest efforts to place our Government squarely on the side of our Nationalist goals, and to press for consummations, in our own time, of our dream to achieve in this country a modern economy resting on moral ideals, on social justice and the fraternity of all Filipinos, rich and poor.

**Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1959). President Garcia's speech before labor leaders at the Manila Hotel, Friday evening, November 6, 1959. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(45), 9426-9430.

## **Nationwide Radio and TV Address of President Garcia**

### **Nationwide Radio and TV Address of His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia President of the Philippines**

[Delivered on November 8, 1959]

MY COUNTRYMEN:

I AM grateful for the opportunity of addressing you directly in the comfort and intimacy of your homes. The day after tomorrow, November 10, is election day. In the exercise of your sovereign will, you will again express through the ballot your choice of the party and of the men who will lead our country in the crucial years ahead.

Let me begin by saying that in casting your vote on Tuesday, you will not merely be deciding the short-term fortunes of a few political parties. In casting your vote, you may well be deciding the whole future course of the development of the Republic.

I do not doubt that you will make your choice wisely, just as you have in the past, and I am confident that you will do so in full knowledge of the issues at stake in this election.

I should like to emphasize this. What we need above all is a restoration of the sanity and balance that we seem to have lost in the fever of an election campaign. In all the long years that I have been in politics, I have never met with such a determined effort on the part of the opposition parties to unleash the dark and sinister forces which lie below the surface of civilized society. They have promoted intolerance and bigotry, engendered suspicion and doubts, invited despair, fomented prejudice, and enthroned ignorance. I cannot regard this as anything less than a massive and deliberate assault on our value as a free people. Far more than any ideology, it constitutes a clear and decisive threat today to our liberties and our way of life.

It may dismay us—and particularly you, the voters—to note that after half a century of careful training in the democratic processes, we should harvest a crop of little brown McCarthy's strutting across the national stage in a cold-blooded effort to undermine the very bases of our beliefs and faiths.

Fortunately, they comprise only a minority. I am convinced it will never be said of the Filipino people that they permitted knowingly the spread in our midst of the malignant cancer of McCarthyism.

The most generous interpretation we can give the actions of the opposition parties is to say that in McCarthyism they have found the perfect refuge for intellectual bankruptcy.

You have only to examine the programs of the Liberal Party and of the Grand Alliance, which differ only in the unessential details, to realize how completely they have misconstrued the nature of our problems, and consequently how wide of the mark their proposed solutions are.

This is why they are so anxious to distort the meaning of the program of the Nacionalista Party. They realize that once this program is clearly understood by the people, it will emerge in its true light as the only rational solution to our national problems. Where the Nacionalista Party offers basic solutions to basic problems, the Liberal Party and the Grand Alliance can best offer only the deceptive relief of partial and sporadic reform.

But the stark truth is that in their main direction, the opposition programs actually repudiate the desires and aspirations of the Filipino people. The Liberal Party and the Grand Alliance are anti-nationalists. They distrust nationalism because it upsets their preconceptions about the character of Philippine society. They distrust nationalism because it means change, and they are rock-bound conservatives in mortal fear of the rushing tides of

history. But most of all they distrust nationalism because they lack faith in the capacity of the Filipino people to mold their own future.

The cunning but transparent effort to thwart the people's aspirations explains why the Liberal Party and the Grand Alliance are so obsessed with synthetic issues such as pro-Communism and anti-Americanism. By this time, you will have recognized these nonexistent issues for what they are. They are beneath contempt. You can tamper with opinion; but you may tamper with facts only at your own peril.

On these two questions, the record of the Nacionalista Party is above suspicion. I will remind the gentlemen of the opposition that it was the Nacionalista Party which outlawed Communism in the Philippines. It was the Nacionalista Party which took the initiative in rooting out and applying remedies to the conditions which bred unrest, instability, and dissidence. Finally, I will remind them that it was the Nacionalista Party which made it possible for the Philippines to join the SEATO in a defensive alliance aimed precisely at deterring Communist expansionism.

As for anti-Americanism, I can assert that at no time in the past the mutual esteem and regard of the Philippines and the United States for each other been higher. Having removed through friendly negotiations the causes of misunderstanding, our friendship now rests on a firmer and more enduring foundation.

The Liberal Party has levelled these accusations against the Administration, but it has chosen to ignore the fact that most of these ills are in reality directly traceable to them. As a result of the failure of the Liberal regime to heed the clamor for social reform, Communism grew in the Philippines. As a result of the regime's heavy-handed policy of repression, the Communist movement flared into open and widespread revolt, threatening the very existence of our young Republic.

The unsatisfactory aspects of our foreign relations are also burdensome legacies from the Liberal regime. As a result of their weak and submissive policies, the Liberals assented to the inequalities which form the substance of the irritants in Philippine-American relations. Now, the Liberals are charging that my administration has failed to maintain that unequal relationship. I do plead guilty to that charge. For it is these inequalities which threaten the very foundation of that friendship. And it is precisely because we cherish this friendship and wish above all to keep it that my administration has sought to remove the unsatisfactory elements that threaten and weaken its existence.

Finally, the Liberal regime perpetuated the greatest single obstacle to Philippine progress, which is alien domination of the economy. The domination by aliens of our economic life gained impetus during the Liberal administration. In all their eight years in office, they did nothing to correct this evil. On the contrary, everything was done to stimulate and encourage aliens in Philippine business and industry, to the lasting prejudice of Filipinos. Now the Liberals accuse my administration of upsetting the status quo and causing great unrest and apprehension in the alien business community. I would consider this extremely regrettable if true, but I would rather have the alien business community upset than my own people doomed forever to humiliation and poverty in their own country.

Thus, the makeshift and shortsighted policies of the Liberal Party in the past have given rise to consequences which today imperil our progress as a nation and in many ways portend disaster unless checked by firm and positive action.

But the Liberal Party, like a muscle-bound pachyderm, refuses to learn and adapt itself to the ever changing environment. Its policies today bear the same ineradicable mark of the improvised, the banal and uncreative, and where they are not merely sterile, they are clearly productive of evil. Let no one dismiss the so-called doctrine of command responsibility as the mere phantasm of a disordered brain. It fits in too well with the repressive and reactionary character of past Liberal Party policies to be shrugged off so casually. For the clear implication of the so-called doctrine is the establishment of an authoritarian regime, since only under such conditions could it be effectively enforced. I would hate to draw the conclusion but I find it necessary to warn that a Liberal Party victory might well mean a repetition of Malinala in a hundred little towns all over the Philippines.

Nowhere is the lack of understanding of the scope of our national problem by the Liberal Party and the Grand Alliance more evident than in their proposed solution to the economic problem. As a magic formula for progress, they seek to revive the heretical and outmoded notion of *laissez faire*. To propose a completely free enterprise at this



stage is like sending out an infant into the streets to engage in a free-for-all with the neighborhood gang. Government regulatory mechanisms in our stage of development exist precisely to encourage and help Filipino business to grow to a point where it can hold its own against powerful alien competition. They exist also to protect the interests of the masses from entrenched economic might. In other words, government participation in an underdeveloped country like the Philippines is a necessary precondition for nationalistic growth and development. It is not an end in itself.

To allow the operation of a completely free enterprise today will also mean in effect the preservation of the very condition which we wish to correct; namely, alien economic domination. Because of their larger capital resources, alien business interests in the Philippines would have an unfair headstart in the race for economic supremacy. It would be naive to suppose that we, who have only just started, could expect to overhaul that lead in the foreseeable future under conditions of free enterprise.

Realism is clearly not the strong point of the opposition parties. In spite of all the noises emanating from their direction, the Liberal Party is essentially a do-nothing party, and its satellite, the Grand Alliance, a party of do-nothing do-gooders. They operate in a kind of political vacuum in which programs and policies have no context and consequently have little relevance to the hard, commonsense world which Filipinos inhabit.

As a nation, we have reached a watershed. Many forces in our national life have been released which it would be dangerous to stem and impossible to stop. We want to be independent in fact as well as in name. We want to shake off the crippling legacies of our colonial past. Above all, we want to insure for ourselves and our posterity freedom from the ever-present blights of poverty, ignorance, and disease.

For far too long our progress has been held back. But today we are a country in a hurry; we wish to catch up with the modern world as quickly as our moral and material resources will permit. It is thus that our deepest aspirations as a people center on the overwhelming need for speedy national growth and development.

In seeking to attain this end, our chosen instrument is nationalism. In whatever form it may arise, nationalism is essentially the expression of a profound desire to change an existing condition which it is no longer possible to tolerate. Today, our problem is to remove a condition whose continued existence is a palpable menace to the healthy and unhampered growth of the nation.

I refer to the vestigial remains of colonialism in our midst.

Let us be candid and admit that thirteen years after achieving our independence, the remnants of our colonial past still cling like stubborn barnacles to our social structure. Colonialism is a pervasive fact. It is evident in the continued domination of our economy by aliens and equally evident in our failure, until the recent past, to assert fully our sovereign rights in our relations with foreign powers. Now, colonialism is the source of our gravest problems. Because of the colonial nature of our economy, our full economic development is retarded. In turn, this tends to perpetuate the unequal distribution of income, so that the all-important objective of closing the gap between the poor and rich continues to be beyond our grasp. As long as this persists, social instabilities, with their ripe potential for strife and dissension, will rise to the surface. Finally, colonialism is the ultimate cause of widespread graft and corruption.

When our problems are seen in this basic light, then all the pieces fall into place and questions and issues assume their proper importance in the scale of things. It is one of the peculiarities of colonialism that once it attached itself to a victim it clings with the strength and tenacity of a parasitic infection. Halfway measures, such as those proposed by the opposition parties, will be found ineffective. Such measures may mask the symptoms, but the infection will continue in a form as virulent as before.

To overcome colonialism, therefore, the Nacionalista Party has chosen nationalism as the only force capable of dislodging its firm hold on our social institutions, and which will remedy at the very source the cause of the festering infection. It is on the basis of this nationalistic orientation that the Nacionalista Party has formulated a set of policies intended to secure our welfare and well-being.

It is these policies that are now at issue before the electorate.

The Nacionalista Party proposes:

First, to complete our economic independence through the adoption of the Filipino First policy and similar measures;

Second, to establish our dignity as a free people by dealing with foreign powers on terms of sovereign equality;

Third, to achieve a balance economy by providing equal impetus to agriculture and industry;

Fourth, to promote social justice and the general welfare of the masses; and,

Fifth, to minimize, and if possible eradicate, graft and corruption in the public service.

If we are asked, what have we achieved in the implementation of these policies, the answer is: much, so much more than we are entitled to expect, considering that we are an underdeveloped country in the strong grip of a colonial past. The true answer, however, is this: we in this generation have made the basic decisions and reaped the initial gains, but the immeasurable rewards lie in the future and await our grateful posterity.

But the gains made under the Nacionalista administration are solid in themselves, as even our bitterest critics admit.

Remarkable gains have been made in agricultural production, which has increased by 35.1 per cent since 1954; in mining, by 50.2 per cent; and in manufacturing, by 73.7 per cent.

As a result of the implementation of the Filipino First policy, Filipinos for the first time since the institution of controls have gained the upper hand in the allocation of foreign exchange. In the first half of 1959, their share of foreign exchange amounted to 51 per cent of total allocations.

We achieved self-efficiency in the basic cereals, rice and corn, for the first time in our history.

We have also achieved the long-sought objective of a favorable balance of trade in the amount of \$95.2 million in the first half of the current year.

Filipino participation in the establishment of business enterprises has mounted at a steadily increasing pace. Capital investment by Filipinos amounted to 72 per cent in 1953; during this year, it jumped to 81 per cent.

Notable gains have been made in restoring harmonious relations with the United States as evidenced by the favorable results of the bases negotiations.

Huk dissidence has been curbed, and covert Communist activity is under surveillance in implementation of agreements made through the SEATO.

As a partial solution to the problem of eradicating graft and corruption, the Nacionalista administration has instituted a vigorous campaign which has resulted, in the years 1958 and 1959 alone, in the conviction of over 4,000 out of a total of nearly 12,000 cases examined. This record is unparalleled. Widespread graft and corruption is a direct consequence of the colonial nature of our economy. Therefore, the basic solution lies in correcting the colonial condition through the instrument of nationalism.

Basic reforms intended to raise the living standards of the barrio population include the land reform program resettlement, and the establishment of the cooperative marketing associations. Equally basic is the recent decision for the dispersal of industry as a means of providing more economic opportunities to the rural population.

I am proud of the progress that we have achieved in the past six years of the Nacionalista administration. But I do not claim them for myself or for the Nacionalista Party. The credit for national progress justly belongs to the people. The true function of any administration is to create the conditions which liberate the creative energies of the people for the achievement of the goals which they have set for themselves.

I have done so and will continue to do so to the best of my ability. In making this pledge, I wish to assure you that the Nacionalista Party stands solidly behind me. There is no better guarantee of our word than the fact that for nearly half a century, the Nacionalista Party, more than any other party or pseudo party, has fought firmly and victoriously for our common aspirations as a people and as a nation. Just as we fought shoulder to shoulder in the protracted and sometimes bitter struggle to attain political independence, so today I trust that we shall assume the common burden as well as the common responsibility for achieving economic independence. When that victory is ours, then and only then can we stand in full pride and dignity as a truly free and sovereign people.

There has been much talk of disunity in the Nacionalista Party. I deny it, and I urge you to ignore it. When a party has survived as long as the Nacionalista Party has, it is not logical to expect that small disagreements could sunder it permanently. For the unity of a political party derives not from the idiosyncracies of its members no matter how much admirable, but from a community of ideals, goals, and principles. Today, the strength of our conviction in the justice of our cause and our issues in this campaign welds us together more firmly than ever before.

I should like to leave you with the thought with which I began. I said that in casting your vote day after tomorrow, you may well be deciding the whole future course of our development as a people. I have described the issues not only of my own party but those of the opposition as well. The principal point at issue is whether we shall adopt nationalism as the principal instrument for full national growth, or whether we shall retain the status quo and remain forever in the eternal half-light of colonialism. As an instrument for growth, nationalism demands that we liberate the economy from the grip of aliens, stand on our full sovereignty in our relations with foreign powers, and assure for our people, not a false millenium, but progress as this is achieved in the hard world of practical necessity.

On these issues, there is a definite division between the Nacionalistas and the opposition. Your choice therefore is clear whether to stay put with the opposition parties, or go forward with the Nacionalistas.

Good night and may God help you in making your choice.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1959). President Carlos P. Garcia's nation-wide radio and TV address on November 8, 1959. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(46), 9642-9649.

**Speech of President Garcia at the 14th General Assembly of the International Union of Official Travel Organizations (IOUTO)**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the 14th General Assembly of the International Union of Official Travel Organization (IOUTO)**

[Delivered at the Senate Session Hall, November 20, 1959]

DR.  
DISTINGUISHED  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

BERNECKER,  
DELEGATES,

I AM happy to welcome you to the Philippines on behalf of my countrymen. I also wish to thank you for accepting my invitation in Brussels last year in which I suggested that this year's General Assembly of your organization be held in this country.

I must acknowledge that at the time I had some misgivings as to whether you would seriously consider the Filipino bid for this meeting, first because I noticed that only twice in the past fourteen years have you held your annual conference outside the European continent; and second, because I realized only too well the enormous distance that must be covered by anyone travelling to the Orient.

I am, therefore, extremely grateful for your decision to honor this country as the setting for this 14th General Assembly of the International Union of Official Travel Organizations, devoted exclusively to the advancement of international tourism. It is my earnest hope that the countries in this region will also derive immense benefits from your deliberations in this session hall of our Congress. More than half of the world's population lives in Asia. If only for this reason, I am certain that the rest of the people of this region share my exultation over your decision to bring your tremendous influence into this part of the world.

The goals you seek as an organization are precisely the same goals and objectives that, until now, governments working together, or independently of each other, have eagerly sought but have so far failed to attain for one reason or another. What until today is an unrelieved predicament for international diplomacy—the attainment of real understanding and peaceful cooperation among nations—you may be able to bring about with your work of promoting trade and cultural intercourse among the peoples of the world. For more than any single factor, it is peoples' increasing contacts among themselves that will effectively remove the barriers of prejudice, suspicion, and fear and develop mutual respect and understanding. In this noble task you have found a great ally in science whose rapid developments in the last decade have provided the world at large with easier and faster means of travel.

I commend you for the noble aims of your organization and for your unceasing labor in overcoming the complex problems confronting you in the task of helping set up a community of world neighbors.

For our part, we are moving vigorously and steadfastly the direction of the goals you have set. Nearly a decade ago, while I was Vice-President and concurrently Secretary of Foreign Affairs, I had the opportunity of being an active sponsor in launching the Pacific Area Travel Association. This organization is now doing a good job in the entire Western Pacific region. Believing earnestly in the future of cultural intercourse through tourism and seeing a developed tourist industry in one country as an excellent source of universal economic and cultural benefits, I have lent every possible support to the development and promotion work initiated by Commissioner Farolan through the Philippine Tourist and Travel Association and now, more systematically, through our Board of Travel and Tourist Industry.

As in the field of economy itself, we have in these past years begun to share the growing conviction, evident in every nation today, that government has a special responsibility in providing direction to the development of tourism

and its concomitant benefits of trade, culture, and commerce. Three years ago, realizing, that we must forbid ourselves an attitude of laissez faire in this all too important endeavor, our government assumed full responsibility for the development of our travel and tourist industry. As a consequence, the annual volume of our tourist traffic has increased from 10,330 in 1952, when tourist promotions here began as a mere civic movement, to 21,643 in 1956, when the government initiated a tourist program through our Board of Travel and Tourist Industry, and finally to 30,859 in 1958. Under the government-sponsored tourist promotion program, therefore, the Philippines saw an average yearly increase of 27.75 per cent in tourist traffic.

Needless to say, we have under this program gained a substantial increase in foreign exchange receipts. I shall not pretend that this has not been of tremendous economic value to our country. From 1952 to 1956, foreign exchange receipts from our expanded tourist program had a yearly annual increase of 110 per cent. We estimate that on the basis of these figures our foreign exchange receipts of \$14,097,625.56 for 1958 represents an 833 per cent increase during the three years of the government program, or an average yearly increase of 227 per cent.

Uppermost in our minds, however, is the incalculable value to us in terms of a better understanding among foreigners of our land and our people. The increase in the volume of tourist traffic into our country represents not so much new economic opportunities as new opportunities for us to provide the world beyond our shores with more knowledge of the Philippines and of the Filipinos than had till then been impossible.

This World Tourist Conference will stimulate us even more in pursuing these goals. In your respective countries you have done magnificently to attract and draw increasingly large streams of travellers in your direction and we have shared in the enjoyment of your rich scenic and cultural offerings.

May I now ask you to turn your eyes—and the rest of the travel world's eyes—eastward to Asia and the Pacific. May I take this opportunity to initiate a step that may draw your attention and the interest of the rest of the world to know more and to see more of our still largely unknown region. With the Jet Age, Manila and almost any part of the Orient can be reached today in just a matter of hours. With still more developments in air technology promised to us by the present pace of scientific advancement, we may foresee greater opportunities to move into an era of world neighborhood.

It seems to me that with all the physical facilities that modern science can afford us today and in increasing number in the future, all that remains to be developed are the opportunities inherent in the spirit of man—the willingness to open doors to greater understanding and active cooperation in all beneficial fields of human endeavor.

I wish, therefore, to take advantage of this opportunity to invite you, and the peoples whom you represent, to permit yourselves closer association with us. I wish to invite you to join us in proclaiming 1981 as “Visit the Orient Year.” Together, let us create the opportunity and provide the occasion for the rest of the world to come to see us afloat in our homelands, to observe our progress and unique traditions, and to get acquainted with distinctive cultures and our wealth of natural resources and attractions. I propose to proclaim 1981, during which we will commemorate the first centennial anniversary of the birth of Dr. Jose Rizal, our great national hero and a revered apostle of freedom in Asia, as “See the Philippines—Visit the Orient Year.” It is my hope that other neighboring countries will join us in a common move to focus the world spotlight on our area and, thus, to induce the tide of large-scale travel in our direction.

Individually and through separate efforts, we will never be able to obtain a decent share of the travel dollars afloat abroad and awaiting to be coaxed to land upon friendly and hospitable shores. But, collectively and working in harmony, according to an agreed pattern of promotions and publicity, we can effectively bring an increasingly sizeable segment of world tourist traffic to earn an ever larger fount of foreign exchange for our respective countries. Together, we must go hard after this tangible and substantial wealth, which should be a formidable transfusion into anemic economies.

Let us unlock the “mysterious” and “magic” box, that is the Orient, and exploit its enchantments and charms to entice more travellers in quest of pleasure and adventure. In this enterprise, we are extremely favored by a generous Nature, which has lavishly endowed us with the exotic and the spectacular in scenery that make of our region a true

tourist paradise. Between now and 1961, we will have ample time to organize programs and coordinate schedules to make travel to the Orient alluring, memorable, and enlightening to the visitors. We can start now to plan appropriate festivals and spectacles, putting together the best we can show of our fine arts and native crafts and producing a wider variety of our distinctive souvenir and gift goods to satisfy and please our guests.

Our common aim should be to provide a fascinating year-round program in each of our countries during 1961, so that wherever in our region the world traveller may go and whatever the season, there will always be something for him or her to admire and enjoy, something instructive to learn, and something useful and interesting to acquire and take home as souvenir. All these can be immensely profitable, besides contributing to a keener appreciation of our native cultures and the various roles that we play in contemporary history. All these can bring about greater mutual understanding and, in the end, harmony and peace, especially among those who don't now know enough of each other, because they don't see enough of one another, and have yet to learn to value other people's better qualities and capabilities for contributing to the sum total of civilization and human progress.

This is my contribution towards the attainment of the objectives of your self-assigned task. This is the Philippines' offer of service towards bringing nearer your goal of larger and farther-ranging travel for mankind's happiness and for the world's richer economy. In fine, this should attest to our awareness of the need for imagination and initiative in the common drive to get going a more massive movement of peoples of all races and nationalities from one continent to another and within each one of them, for common profit.

As to our share of the responsibility to help facilitate travel, I am pleased to announce that in the last special session of our Congress, the Philippine Senate ratified the U. N. Convention on Tourism and Customs Facilities. We have since deposited our ratification papers in the U. N. Secretariat. I pledge our government's unfaltering assistance and support to further reduce or remove altogether as rapidly as our economy and finances permit, other travel barriers I wish further to assure you of our wholehearted support of your proposal for the United Nations to convene an international diplomatic conference to ease some more, to simplify and to render uniform, travel regulations throughout the world in a manner to cope with the obvious demands of rapid and massive movement in the Jet Age. In closing I reiterate my best wishes for success in your deliberations. It is my fond hope that you will find your sojourn in our islands both enjoyable and rewarding. Our people are happy hosts to you; we have opened our hearts to welcome you; and, as we say in the Philippines our homes are yours while you are in our midst. The best we have in God's wondrous creation, and the finest products of our minds and hands are all yours to enjoy to contemplate, or to take along with you as mementoes of your visit here when you go home.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1959). President Garcia's speech at the 14th General Assembly of the International Union of Official Travel Organizations (IOUTO) delivered on November 20, 1959, at the Senate Session Hall. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(47), 9862-9866.

## **Speech of President Garcia at the Stanvac Journalism Awards Dinner**

### **Speech of His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia President of the Philippines At the Stanvac Journalism Awards Dinner**

[Delivered at the National Press Club Building, November 26, 1959]

PRESIDENT  
DISTINGUISH  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

PEREZ,  
GUESTS,

LET ME congratulate the Awardees on their outstanding journalistic record for the year 1959 which has merited for them the honors given this evening, under the auspices of the Standard Vacuum Oil Company. I take this occasion also to thank the members of the Fourth Estate for their excellent coverage of the last national elections. Their alertness has in no small way helped keep our polls free and the voters intelligently informed on issues vital to the welfare of the nation. Thus, the cause of democracy has been further enhanced and the political maturity of our people fostered through the media of untrammelled exercise of free speech and the right to discuss the views and opinions of individuals as well as of parties.

I am deeply gratified by the showing of our electorate, by their sobriety of judgment, and by their interest and enthusiasm in political and economic affairs. Now that the elections are over and the people's mandate proclaimed, I exhort all our citizens to set aside political sentiment and close ranks behind their chosen leaders, and join hands once again in our common struggle for better living—for the production of more food, more clothing, more shelter, and a greater abundance of all the good things in life, that we may, in the not too distant future, stand on our own claim for ourselves the buttress to political freedom which is economic independence.

In this task, too, the Press plays a vital role and has solemn responsibilities to discharge. It must kindle a consciousness and awareness of the whys and wherefores of the economic struggle among the people, and thus enlist their support for measures aimed at sound economic development. It must serve as the fiscalizing voice of the people as the need arises, but take care to criticize in a constructive manner, without prejudice or demagoguery, seeking to build up rather than destroy. It must always uphold the truth so that public opinion may be molded into an effective vehicle for national, economic, and cultural advancement.

One of the salient issues in this year's elections has been the economic policy of the Administration. I feel that with the election of five Nacionalista senators, and the victory of the party's candidates for gubernatorial and mayoralty posts in two thirds of all the provinces, the Administration's economic platform has been vindicated. At the same time, the election of three opposition senators is testimony to our people's political maturity in desiring to place an able fiscalizing group in the highest legislative body of the land.

The Nacionalista Party and any administration are pledged to push the prosecution of economic development still further, although I can humbly claim that we have already made remarkable progress. The magnitudes of our success have been amply discussed during the election campaign, and I must emphasize that their achievement has not been easy. Our economic development has been an uphill struggle demanding much sacrifice and hard work. But then, any economist can tell you that the economic development of an underdeveloped country is neither spontaneous nor free from critical difficulties. It must be planned, executed, and even enforced; it must involve a welter of decisions and measures not only on the part of the government and its agencies, but also on the part of businessmen, investors, and the consumers of the country itself. Some of the measures called for may be unpalatable but unavoidable during the process of development, such as increased taxation and borrowing, austerity in spending and consumption, import and exchange controls. We have had our share of these measures in the past and, while they are being continued to assure an orderly process of economic development, it is the Administration's plan to do

away with controls as soon as can safely be done. Economic development is unrelenting, and is not a task to be accomplished in a single year. Many of the industrial countries have come through decades of development.

Barely five months ago, just before the election campaign, the Administration sponsored an economic measure which aroused heated controversy and drew sharp criticism from many quarters. Certainly such a measure was politically unpalatable, and we recognized that it might impair the chances of party candidates in the forthcoming elections. However, its implementation was in our opinion, an economic necessity for the country in view of the threatening inflationary conditions generated by a rapid rise in development expenditures at that time. So, political expediency was ignored, and the foreign exchange margin bill was enacted into law to shore up our defenses against monetary instability.

Dire predictions were made both preceding and after the enactment of the margin law. It was prophesied that prices would spiral so steeply that even the essential commodities of daily living would be out of reach of the common man. Yet, had the Administration not acted decisively and courageously in the way it did, despite the adverse political implications of its move, we would have faced a real economic crisis. The prevailing inflationary trends would have shortly depreciated our international reserve to such an extent that not only would consumer imports have to be stopped, but even importations of producer raw materials curtailed. The resulting shortages would have boosted prices up to really intolerable levels. It was at such a time as this, that action of a high degree of courage and statesmanship was called for, and the Administration could not shirk its duty, no matter what the cost.

The operation of the margin law has been as effective as planned, and the country's economy has been displaying new strength in recent months. The electorate has clearly demonstrated its endorsement of the Administration's economic platform and its dismissal of the margin controversy as a valid election issue.

More than anything else, the performance of the Philippine economy itself has been the strongest vindication of the Administration's economic program. The international reserve, which has been drawn on heavily during the past ten years to meet the foreign exchange requirements of our developing economy and the imported needs of the consuming public, has registered a remarkable recovery since last July 15th when the margin law was enforced. Its level at the middle of November was \$166.7 million, a \$33.8 million improvement over the reserve on July 15th. And this in spite of the fact that we made a \$12.5 million payment on our repurchase obligations with the International Monetary Fund. We were favored with \$35.2 million favorable balance of trade during the first semester of this year, plus an additional \$35.0 million in the last three months. In other words, since the start of the year we have exported \$70 million more in goods than we imported, about half of the surplus garnered in the period, July to September, which coincides with the first months of operation of the margin law.

Incidentally, this is the first time in the past eight years that the foreign trade of the country has turned in our favor. Before the establishment of the Central Bank and the imposition of controls, our yearly trade deficit averaged \$273.1 million. In the subsequent years under controls from 1950 to 1958, the average trade deficit was cut down to \$152.3 million. This year, instead of a deficit we have a large surplus. This improvement in our balance of trade is all the more remarkable when we consider that while the import needs of our industries and the consuming public at this stage of our development continue to be heavy, we now produce for ourselves many of the items we have imported in the past. Furthermore, a very significant expansion in our exports has been achieved this year.

It is indeed gratifying to report that the Margin Law has not pushed the prices of prime commodities beyond the reach of the masses. The latest price surveys reveal that prices of consumer items such as food and clothing stood an average of only two per cent higher in October than they were in July. Furthermore, the consumer prices in October were even slightly below their level a year ago. The prices of imported commodities and locally produced commodities using imported raw materials have been expected to be most affected by the margin levy on foreign exchange. Yet, the index of imported consumer goods reflects a price increase of only a little more than two per cent since July. Even on the wholesale price level, imported commodity prices have advanced by only 3.5 per cent. Such price movements certainly do not conform to the price spirals conjured by the critics of the Administration's economic policy.



Let us briefly consider other statistics relating to the operation of the much unaligned 25 per cent margin law. A primary function of the margin is to act as an anti-inflationary instrument through withdrawal of the required margin collections from the money supply. As of November 13, the Central Bank has accumulated some ₱39.8 million under the margin law. Also, as a result, the excess reserves of the commercial banks have been reduced and, consequently, so has their ability to create credit on the basis of these reserves. While total money supply has been expanding at the rate of 0.75 per cent a month during the 12 months from July, 1958, to June, 1959, monetary expansion has now slowed down to only 0.4 per cent a month since July this year. The margin law, therefore, has so far succeeded in holding down inflationary potentials in the economy by its two-pronged influence on money supply and credit creation.

The strengthening of our economic position at home has also been reflected in the recovery of the Philippine peso on the free market abroad. From the middle of July to the middle of November our peso has gained 32 points in the free money market.

These then, my friends, are but a few of the portents of better things yet to come. Now that the elections are over I urge all our citizens, regardless of party affiliations or political sympathies, to contribute in any way possible towards the realization of our common economic dream. In this task, I call for a resurgence of all that is best in our people—the industry, perseverance, thrift, and forbearance that are the hallmarks of true patriotism.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1959). President's speech at the Stanvac Journalism Awards Dinner, at the National Press Club Building, Thursday evening, November 26, 1959. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(47), 9866-9870.

**Speech of President Garcia on the 10th anniversary of the Community Chest Fund Drive**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
On the 10th anniversary of the Community Chest Fund Drive**

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, December 4, 1959]

MY FRIENDS:

EARLIER this year, I had occasion to address our countrymen during the kick-off ceremonies that signalled the start of the Community Chest fund drive.

I said then: "In wishing to pursue this year's Community Chest fund campaign to a successful conclusion, we derive added hopefulness from the fact that there is among our people a fundamental sense of unity. It is this sense of unity upon which our national program of prosperity and self sufficiency depends. It is the same sense of unity upon which every other program must depend for success."

In celebrating tonight the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Community Chest of Greater Manila, it would be well to recall just for the record, the situation that prompted its creation.

Ten years ago, there was what we may call complete *laissez faire* among welfare agencies in the manner of raising funds for their operations. The result was that for the whole year round one agency or another was pursuing a fund campaign. Each agency had its own team of fund raisers; volunteer workers were called upon continually to serve in the different fund drives; and our people were continually plagued for contributions by one agency after another.

It did not take long for some civic-spirited citizens to realize that too much money, time, and effort were being spent for the purpose of raising funds for welfare agencies, that contributors were getting annoyed at the endless stream of fund solicitors, and that some of the welfare agencies, owing to lack of know-how and personnel, could not even raise enough money for operations.

It was into this confused state of affairs, that men of civic spirit among us, most noteworthy of whom are the four people we honor here tonight, conceived of the idea of establishing the Community Chest of Greater Manila, patterned after existing Community Chests in the United States.

The idea of merging the fund solicitation of eighteen welfare agencies into one yearly campaign caught the imagination of everyone, for the advantages were immediately discernible for everyone involved in the fund campaign. First, the donor gave wholeheartedly knowing that his one yearly donation would be funnelled into eighteen welfare agencies. Second, the agencies reduced the cost of fund-raising and were able to give the time that was before consumed in this activity to actual services. Third, the civic spirited people who yearly gave their time and effort without pay in the service of these welfare agencies were afforded the opportunity to concentrate on one big effort for all instead of wearing themselves out in a constant series of campaigns.

I want to restate here that the establishment of the Community Chest of Greater Manila was made possible owing to the fundamental sense of unity of our people. It was only this sense that made possible the realization by eighteen different agencies that their one recourse, if they were to give effective services, was to band together. It was also this sense that could impel them to work together and put up the massive fund raising machinery that the Community Chest puts up every year.

This sense of unity is even more apparent in the diversity of background of the people whom we honor here tonight— all for one reason—their personal services to the Community Chest. We have Mrs. Irene E. Murphy, a

friend from across the seas, whose background is social services; Rev. George J. Willman, a man of God; Dr. Teodoro Evangelista, educator; and Senator Gil J. Puyat, statesman and economist.

The growth of the Red Feather services of the Community Chest during the last ten years is a testimonial to the effectiveness with which these four people and their associates have pooled together their diverse talents for the success of their joint project.

It is this fundamental sense of unity, this effective pooling of diverse talents and resources so essential in success that I would want to see in the other programs that our people will undertake.

Nobody is so untalented that he can not contribute something to the national welfare. Every effort, every criticism even, has its role to play in the national scheme of things.

Our national life today, especially in the political and economic fields, is characterized by the elements present of the situation in which, ten years ago our welfare agencies found themselves-each one within his limited resources elbowing his way to success.

I therefore call upon all our people to heed our fundamental sense of unity and together to pool our diverse talents and efforts to the end that we shall establish on our land under the aegis of peace and prosperity a real treasure chest from which bounty will flow for everyone who works hard enough to deserve it.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1959). President Garcia's speech on the 10th anniversary of the Community Chest Fund Drive, Manila Hotel, December 4, 1959, at 7:30 p.m. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(49), 10245-10247.

**Speech of President Garcia at the 10th anniversary dinner of the Philippine Chamber of Industries**

**Address  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the 10th anniversary dinner of the Philippine Chamber of Industries**

[Read by NEC Chairman Jose C. Locsin at the Manila Hotel's Winter Garden, December 7, 1959]

GENTLEMEN:

I CONSIDER it an excellent opportunity to be able to address this body on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. We have just concluded an orderly national election. The fever of prejudice that sweeps the nation during an election campaign has begun to subside. Now that the excitement has abated and the heated emotions of narrow partisanship have cooled, it is time for us to assess the present situation and take stock of the future.

Immediately after my return from the Visayas on November 8, I addressed the nation and laid down five major tasks which I believe are essential for national survival. These are:

First. To complete our economic independence through the adoption of the Filipino First policy and similar measures;

Second. To establish our dignity as a free people by dealing with the foreign powers on terms of sovereign equality;

Third. To achieve a balanced economy by providing equal impetus to agriculture and industry;

Fourth. To promote social justice and the general welfare of the masses;

Fifth. To minimize and, if possible, to eradicate graft and corruption in the public service.

These five tasks really constitute a single package for national progress. They are all interrelated. The common denominator is nationalism and the result of the elections is, in my opinion, a triumph of nationalism and a vindication of the dynamic policies of the Nacionalista administration. I therefore appeal to all elements in our country to cast aside partisan feelings in the unrelenting prosecution of these tasks. I believe that all Filipinos, irrespective of their party affiliation, should realize that the basic instrument in the attainment of our dignity and our economic emancipation is nationalism.

Nationalism should no longer be an issue in this country. In most Asian nations, in all European countries, and certainly in the United States, nationalism is no longer a matter for argument. It is a subject seldom discussed, not because it is no longer believed in, but precisely because belief in it, adherence to it, has become so much a part of the fabric of their lives that, automatically, people and government behave in a nationalistic manner. I am now confident, in the light of the people's verdict, that the airing of this issue, the discussion of its meaning which the Nacionalista candidates conducted throughout the land, has made our people firmly nationalistic. This being the case, the vacillation between nationalism and anti-nationalism is a thing of the past. The leaders of this country have only one thing to discuss; namely, the best means of implementing the nationalistic program.

The Philippine Chamber of Industries, by the very nature of its membership, should be one of the most active groups engaged in the task of evolving the best policies for the realization of our nationalist goals. The members of the Chamber of Industries, if they seek permanent, long-term benefits, will find it only in our economic emancipation. In turn, only nationalism can secure this economic independence. Let me elaborate on this point.

The ferment in Asia and Africa is caused by the resurgence of nationalism which in effect is the expression of the desire of the people in these areas to control and direct their political and economic life. For centuries, they have been under the domination of foreign powers. But with the end of the 19th century colonialism and with the attainment of a nuclear stalemate, they have realized that their one basic goal is to attune themselves to modern progress, to catch up with the modern world as fast as possible. The only force that can do this is nationalism because the retarding influence in the economic life of their nations is the vestige of colonialism. What is true for Asia and Africa in general also holds true for us. As J. said in my November 8 speech—"Colonialism is a pervasive fact. It is evident in the continued domination of our economy by aliens and equally evident in our failure, until the recent past, to assert fully our sovereign lights in our relations with foreign powers. Now, colonialism is the source of our gravest problems. Because of the colonial nature of our economy, our full economic development is retarded. In turn, this tends to perpetuate the unequal distribution of income so that the all-important objective of closing the gap between the poor and the rich continues to be beyond our grasp." We must recognize the fast-changing character of the world community. The nuclear stalemate gives us no "alternative to peace." One of the implications of the thawing of the cold war is that underdeveloped nations should now speed up their economic development so as not to be left behind in economic progress by the more advanced nations.

On various occasions in the past, I have said that we would like to attain for our country independence not only in name but also in fact. This has been the underlying policy of my administration. Throughout the years since the attainment of our political independence, we have found ourselves tied down by the ancient ills of stagnancy, disease, and ignorance, our entire life still under the depressing domination of colonialism. The propulsive force of nationalism was given a concrete translation during my administration in the Filipino First policy which, essentially, is both a recognition and an answer to alien domination in our economic life. It is not unknown to you that the bulk of our foreign and domestic trade are in the hands of aliens. This alien domination of our commerce has been largely responsible for the general lack of initiative on the part of our own businessmen and entrepreneurs.

Many elements have accused my administration of upsetting the status quo and causing great unrest and apprehension in the alien business community. But I repeat that I would rather have the alien business community upset than my own people doomed forever to humiliation and poverty in their own country. But this accusation is without foundation because the Filipino First policy merely seeks to give the Filipinos full political and economic responsibility for their future without dictation or undue influence from foreign elements. We seek no more than the same measures of control of our economy that citizens of these foreign countries have in their own land. We seek a new pattern of relation with the aliens not because we want to embark on a chauvinistic adventure and deny them basic human rights, but rather, because we want merely to recover those normal privileges of our citizenship which we lost in colonial times. We desire to replace gradually the lingering dominance of non-Filipinos with a greater participation by our countrymen in the economic development of their own land.

The Filipino First policy is, really, only a remedial measure needed to give the Filipinos protection and encouragement so that they may at last also enjoy the fruits of their patrimony. Of course, in England there is no need for an Englishman First policy nor do Americans need in the United States an American First policy. In both countries, control of the economy is firmly in the hands of its own citizens and the underlying nationalism of both people and government keep it so. Neither would there be any need for a Filipino First policy if the situation were the same here. Unfortunately, it is not. It is, therefore, the duty of the government to foster by its policies a change in the economy so that the Philippines shall be primarily for the Filipinos. Of course, I can understand the attitude of aliens towards this policy. I ask them to understand that it is the solemn obligation of the Philippine Government to provide by means of its policies an economic environment under which the Filipinos may recover the place which is rightfully theirs in their own land.

Nationalism has unleashed many forces in our national life which are impossible to stem and to stop. We want to be independent. We want to check the crippling legacies of our colonial past. We want to liberate our masses from poverty and ignorance. The only way to do all this is by nationalism.

The Philippine Chamber of Industries is the one body that can fully appreciate the economic basis of the Filipino First policy. I am grateful for the service it has done in the economic development of the country. Industrialization is the answer to our ills. The Filipino entrepreneur must be given the necessary support. I believe it is the duty of the government to create the necessary conditions for industrial progress.

Unfortunately, there has been a lot of criticism lately of government economic policies. Some advocate a return to laissez faire. This is unrealistic. Government regulatory functions are necessary in our present stage of development precisely because these regulatory mechanisms exist to encourage and help Filipino businessmen to the point when they can hold their own against foreign competition. As I have said before, "To allow the operation of a completely free enterprise today will also mean in effect the preservation of the very conditions which we wish to correct; namely, alien domination. Because of their larger capital resources, alien business interests in the Philippines would have an unfair headstart in the race for economic supremacy. It would be naive to suppose that we, who have only just started, could expect to overhaul that lead in the foreseeable future under conditions of free enterprise." So firmly do I believe in this need for protecting our businessmen and entrepreneurs that I can tell you now that in the future I would not hesitate to use our tariff powers to protect the Filipino entrepreneur and industrialist should this prove necessary.

But the attainment of the goals of the Filipino First policy is just the beginning. Our other goal is social justice. The triumph of the Filipino business and entrepreneurial class is the first benefit of Filipino First. Social justice is the true end. This can be achieved only by industrialization which will eradicate the blight of poverty and and ignorance, and by social reform which will narrow the gap between the privilege and the poor. Social justice can be further enhanced by strengthening the popular basis of our liberal democracy, by making the democratic tenets of individual freedom, freedom of thought and of speech, truly meaningful and real to the least powerful and least rich of our citizens.

I am glad to report to you the accomplishments of the Administration in the furtherance of the five goals I outlined at the beginning of my talk. Let me say, quite unequivocally, that I regard these accomplishments as largely due to our nationalistic orientation.

Our gross national product rose from ₱8 billion in 1953 to ₱10.5 billion in 1958, and the national income increased by 13.5 per cent between 1956 and 1958.

Agricultural production increased by 35.1 per cent since 1954; mining by 50.2 per cent; and manufacturing by 73.7 per cent.

As a result of the implementation of the Filipino First policy, Filipinos for the first time since the institution of controls have gained the upper hand in the allocation of foreign exchange. In the first half of 1959, their share of foreign exchange amounted to 51 per cent of total allocations.

We achieved self-sufficiency in basic cereals, rice and corn, for the first time in our history.

We have also achieved the long-sought objective of a favorable balance of trade in the amount of ₱95.2 million in the first half of the current year.

Filipino participation in the establishment of business enterprises has mounted at a steadily increasing tempo. Capital investment by Filipinos amounted to 72 per cent in 1953; during this year, it jumped to 81 per cent. I would like to see even greater improvement in this regard.

The Nacionalista administration has initiated basic reforms to raise the living standards of the barrio population through the land reform program, resettlement, and establishment of cooperative marketing associations. The program for dispersal of industry is another way by which we may provide economic opportunities for our people in many parts of the country. Such industrialization will have the added advantage of enabling us to utilize our agricultural products and our present under-employed manpower.

Graft and corruption are the consequence of colonialism. Because of instabilities in our economic system and because of lack of opportunities for productive employment, graft, and corruption still persist. This is by no means an apology. On the contrary, the Administration has vigorously started a campaign against these ills, while at the same time it is putting into operation nationalistic policies which alone can provide a permanent solution for graft and corruption.

The five tasks I laid down require not only the leadership of sincere and dedicated nationalists but also sacrifices from our people. To accomplish these tasks, we need a superhuman source of spiritual strength, a national resource of dedication and will. Ahead of us lie sacrifices, abnegations, thrift, austerity, and hard work.

This dynamic power, this source of strength and virtue, is nationalism. If the nationalism of 1896 ennobled a whole generation of plebeians, intellectuals, and the Filipino middle class to forsake their comforts, expend their fortunes, and shed their blood for the country's sake, nationalism today asks each of us to live and to work with the rest for our country's good.

The Administration is certain that its nationalistic program is the only one that can give dignity and prestige for the nation, and peace and prosperity for its people. I therefore appeal to all of you to rally behind the banner of nationalism in order to win emancipation for our people.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1959). President Garcia's address read by Jose C. Locsin, NEC Chairman at the tenth anniversary dinner of the Philippine Chamber of Industries held Tuesday evening at the Manila Hotel's Winter Garden. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(49), 10240-10245.

**Speech of President Garcia at the formal opening of the National Educational Membership and Fund Campaign of the Cancer Society of the Philippines**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the formal opening of the National Educational Membership and Fund Campaign of the Cancer Society of  
the Philippines**

[Read by Health Secretary Elpidio Valencia, December 21, 1959]

CANCER is one of the most dreaded killer-diseases in the Philippines today. It is the 8th among the top ten leading causes of death. Its prevention and control are matters of immediate and common concern.

One of the factors that has aggravated its killer-potentiality has been the difficulty in its detection especially in the early stages. I say difficulty, not in the sense that a cancer expert can not spot it in the early stages, which the cancer expert can do certainly, but difficulty in the sense that the victim usually does not know in the early stages of the disease that he is already afflicted. So much so that when he starts to suffer pain and starts thinking of going to the doctor for treatment, the disease is already in an advanced usually fatal, stage.

It is the aspect of this disease that has made it a deadly killer. By the time a person knows he has it, it is usually too late for effective treatment.

On the other hand, there lies the incontrovertible fact that cancer, if discovered early, is usually curable.

It is this fact that the Cancer Society of the Philippines has tried to drive home to our people in the few years that it has existed. It is this fact that has goaded the people who established the Cancer Society to pioneer educational drives and the formation of an examination and treatment center in order to make our people cancer conscious that the disease can be spotted in its early stages.

It is not hard to estimate how many lives could have been saved from death by cancer if only the affliction had been discovered early enough for effective treatment.

The Philippine Cancer Society through its diagnostic and detection center has successfully pioneered here in the Philippines the move towards the prevention and control of this killer-disease. Already, it has served for free more than five thousand patients since its organization two years ago.

For the benefit of our people, especially the poor who can not pay the private services of specialists, I want to see the services of the Cancer Society expanded to the end that every one of them may be afforded specialists' care without cost to the poor. This we can do through the Cancer Society. The Cancer Society can do this only if we give it the financial and moral support it needs to expand its services,

I, therefore, call upon all citizens and residents of the Philippines, irrespective of nationality, race, or creed, to assist in this humanitarian campaign by giving generously of their means so that it may be a complete success.

I also authorize and call upon all national, provincial, city, and municipal government officials and employees to extend full and unconditional cooperation to make this campaign a success.

Ladies and gentlemen, I now declare the National Education, Membership, and Fund Campaign of the Cancer Society of the Philippines officially open.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*



Garcia, C. P. (1959). President Garcia's speech read by Health Secretary Elpidio Valencia at the formal opening of the National Educational Membership and Fund Campaign of the Cancer Society of the Philippines. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 55(51), 10529-10530.

**New Year's Message of President Garcia New Year's Message  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines**

[Released on January, 1960]

TO the Filipino people, Mrs. Garcia's and my warmest greetings go on the birth of the New Year 1960. It is properly an occasion for reflection on what has been achieved during the preceding year, and for forging new determination. It is an occasion to review and to renew.

The past year, by and large, has been good to us, showering upon us good fortune. We also had our failures but the successes we achieved instill in us higher hope and deeper faith for the new year. We also remember the past year for the mistakes we committed and the new year brings us fresh determination to correct ourselves. Not all of our desired objectives were attained but what we accomplished warrant that we look forward to the future with renewed courage and fresh dedication. Thus New Year's day marks the periodic regeneration and rebirth of men and nations.

As a nation we can be proud of the fact that our growth has been fast and steady. We have attained self-sufficiency in food where there has always been deficiency. We attained favorable balance of trade where we had deficits since Independence. The progress in industrialization in 1959 has been remarkable. Our dollar reserve has climbed up considerably. Our fiscal position has gained in stability and our peso in strength. Our movement in economic nationalism has acquired a tremendous momentum. Our national dignity before the eyes of the world has been elevated in stature and our friendship with Uncle Sam is now on even firmer and more enduring basis. Above all, the creative energy of our people has been aroused to reach new frontiers of advancement in producing and building.

We still have great problems to solve but these achievements of ours as a nation are the basis of our hope and confidence that in the year of Our Lord 1960, the Philippine nation will continue to march onward with the guidance and protection of Divine Providence.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1960). New Year's Message of President Garcia. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 56(1), 14.

**Speech of President Garcia at the inauguration of the U.P. Asian Labor Education Center Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the inauguration of the U.P. Asian Labor Education Center**

[Delivered at the New Alec Building, Diliman, Quezon City, January 6, 1960]

MINISTER  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

ABBOTT,

THIS is a historic occasion, an occasion so profoundly expressive of the warm, intimate, and secure relations between the United States and the Philippines.

The long tradition of friendship and the spirit of cooperation between the two countries have thus, today, gained in substance. I am confident that, despite discordant notes and jarring influences exerted by divisive forces that tradition and that spirit will continue to grow in strength and depth.

Today's happy event has been preceded by a host of similar ones. Since 1951, under a joint program of Philippine development undertaken through the National Economic Council and the International Cooperation Administration, various projects have been set up to improve practically every field of the public service.

These projects include those undertaken in agricultural extension, highway construction, health, education, public administration, and in social and scientific research. Everywhere one turns, he may witness today the benefits that have been gained through such projects.

Not the least of these benefits is the establishment of an Asian Labor Educational Center here. Thus we are assembled here today on the campus of the State University to dedicate this edifice as a leadership training center for the free trade unions in Asia. The establishment of this Center with such modern facilities opens a new chapter not only in the field of education but in the struggle of the Asian workers for recognition as a vital force in the building of a democratic society.

Let me, first of all, offer my warm welcome to the labor leaders from our sister nations in Asia who have come to participate in this training program for union leadership. For Asian leaders of labor to come together in an Asian setting for study, for fellowship, and for sharing of experiences on problems affecting our workers in Asia is to me not only a refreshing but a desirable approach from the grass-roots level to develop closer ties, better understanding, and a more intelligent consideration of problems among Asian peoples than through a program such as this in the Center

Let me also offer my congratulations to the University of the Philippines for its pioneering efforts in the field of labor education during the past five years and for the important role it is now being called upon to play. I am happy and proud to see our own State University perform its role, for it is my sincere belief that institutions of higher learning, if they are to fulfill their mission in full measure, should help meet and respond to the needs and problems of society.

One of the most important problems we are confronted with in the Philippines—and in Asia—is how to develop free, strong, responsible, and democratic unions, for it is this type of union which alone could contribute to industrial peace and to the common good. Our approach to this problem has been two-fold: by legislation through the Industrial Peace Act, which guarantees to the workers the right to self-organization and to collective bargaining, and by education of union officers and members about their rights and responsibilities as workers and as citizens, through the Labor Education Center of the University of the Philippines. I am happy to note that during the past few years there has been a tremendous growth of unions which could engage in effective collective bargaining, free from the infiltration of subversive ideologies, and conscious of their rights and responsibilities.

However, we are still faced with grave problems in our efforts to improve the lives of our workingmen. There is, first of all, an ever pressing need for dedicated, responsible, and trained leaders in the labor movement so that such an institution could be an effective instrument for national progress. But above all, there is the need to liberate the workers from their apathy, from fear, and from ignorance if we are to have in the Philippines and in Asia a strong free democratic and responsible labor movement. The best answer to these needs is workers' education on an extensive scale. I submit to you, my friends, that the education of workers, be they from the farms or factories, for active, intelligent, and responsible participation in the affairs of our country and in their own unions is indispensable to the building and growth of a democratic social order.

Workers' education in Asia acquires greater significance when we consider that there is keen struggle for the minds of the Asian workers who, because of poverty and despair, may surrender their freedoms for seductive or false promises of economic security and a better life.

On this occasion, allow me to quote from Woodrow Wilson, one of the greatest champions of freedom the world has ever produced, who once said: "Everything I know about history, every bit of experience and observation that has contributed to my thought, has confirmed me in the conviction that the real wisdom of human life is compounded out of the experiences of ordinary men. The utility, the vitality, the fruitage of life does not come from the top to bottom; it comes like the natural growth of a great tree, from the soil, up through the trunk, in the branches, to the foliage and the fruit. The great struggling unknown masses of the men who are at the base of everything are the dynamic force that is lifting the levels of society. A nation is as great, and only as great, as her rank and file."

Let me accept this gift—this important structure—because it symbolizes our goal in nation-building. As I have said before—"Beyond mere economic development, we are concerned, in short, with the building of a truly democratic social order. We want to open to the workingman the fullest possible opportunities for personal development and advancement, without taking away his freedom. We reject vehemently any rigid lines of social hierarchy in our country. We want increasingly to create a society where every Asian child is born, no matter his antecedent and his class may be, will be given the chance, through a decent life and education, to develop fully his God-given abilities to contribute to the national good."

Let me accept this gift because it symbolizes the cause which we in Asia dearly cherished and fight for—the cause of freedom, justice, and human dignity.

Let me accept this gift because it stands for our faith in the common man.

For this gift, may I offer the gratitude of the Filipino people to the people of the United States.

**Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1960). President Garcia's speech at the inauguration of the U.P. Asian Labor Education Center, Wednesday afternoon, January 6, at the New Alec Building in Diliman, Quezon City. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 56(2), 265-267.

## **Speech of President Garcia at the Manila Overseas Press Club**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the Manila Overseas Press Club**

[Delivered on January 16, 1960]

I AM particularly pleased to be with you tonight. It has been a whole year since I last had the pleasant task of clarifying certain aspects of the Administration's policies before you. In that brief year, many significant events transpired, among them the recent elections in which the people elected 5 NP's out of 8 senators, 35 NP's out of 54 provincial governors, and 23 NP's out of 28 city mayors and 2/3 of the town mayors. I realize that from one point of view, the last elections were a mild disappointment to you. In contrast to the record of past elections, the harvest of political murders and terrorism was exceptionally meager, a fact in which we take just pride but which unfortunately does not provide a good copy for sensationalistic journalism.

Be that as it may, I hope you will agree with me that the essential significance of the last elections lay in the fact that for the first time since the Philippines became independent, nationalism became a burning issue at the polls. Through the ballot, the people had given their unmistakable indorsement to the nationalistic policies of my Administration.

I do not say this out of a mean and misplaced sense of vanity, but merely to stress my conviction, freely expressed before and after the elections, that no more important or valid issue could have been put before the Filipino electorate for decision than that of nationalism, specifically with respect to the question of economic independence. We have reached stage in the evolution of our national life where to temporize further with our present problems would result in the perpetuation of conditions which make for economic vassalage. Unless we moved decisively today, it would well mean compromising the future of our Republic. The ugly but incontrovertible fact about our economy today is its dominance by aliens. In some respects, this situation is unique, for there is perhaps no other independent country in the world where alien control of the economic life is as wide and pervasive as in ours. Reduced to stark realities, such a condition makes a mockery of our independence and robs it of substance and meaning.

As long as this condition persists, we shall remain in many ways a colonial country. Our most intractable problems do in truth derive from this fact. Full economic development is retarded and stagnation stubbornly holds sway over significant areas of our national life. As a consequence, great masses of our people are deprived of their just participation and commensurate rewards in the economic growth of the nation. Unless corrected in time and decisively, such a condition could pose an ever-present threat to the stability of our social order.

It is therefore the imperative of this epoch of our national life that the Filipinos acquire a major and dominant participation in the national economy of the Philippines. We propose to do this and we shall do this with malice towards none and with fairness to all. We will do this with full understanding of our international obligations to all our friends of the Free World with whom we have treaties of friendship. We will do this within the framework of our treaties with the U. S. to whose citizens we have granted until 1974 by constitutional provision equal rights as Filipinos in the exploitation of our lands, mines, forest, and other natural resources and public utilities to whom we also granted by the provision of the Laurel-Langley treaty parity with Filipinos in Philippine trade.

In this light therefore I can give full assurance that the Philippine economic nationalism as a national policy is not anti-alien, much less anti-American. It is simply an honest-to-goodness effort of the Filipino people to be the master of their own economic household for exactly the same natural reason that Americans would be masters of the U. S. national economy, the British in England, the Japanese in Japan, etc. It is my hope that our friends abroad will understand this nationalistic policy in the light of its impelling high motives and in the light of its background of 400

years of alien economic dominance in the Philippines and with this understanding cooperate realistically with the Filipino people in attaining their objective in this regard.

In this country there is still room for foreign capital especially in fields where Filipino capital is still deficient or timid. Such friendly foreign capital as are willing to help us realize our economic objective under the announced policy and are willing to collaborate with Philippine capital in joint venture to utilize the vast natural resources of the country are welcome to the Philippines under my administration.

In connection with our economic development I take pleasure in adverting your attention to some significant highlights in 1959 which are indexes of our rapid advancement. These are: (1) For the first time since the war the Philippines achieved a favorable balance of trade. (2) The REDECO, a Philippine mining corporation struck two oil wells at Toledo, Cebu, the first one producing 72 barrels of oil a day and the second, 130 barrels of oil a day. This definitely established the fact that the Philippines is floating oil. (3) We launched the first ship built by Filipino naval engineers and architects at Mariveles last June 10, 1959 thus establishing the Filipino capacity in this field. The NASSCO will go in extensive ship-building to replenish our inter-island beats. (4) We increased our dollar reserve to \$170 million in 1959 and indications are that it is in steady upswing. (5) The 1959 surpluses of rice, corn, and Virginia tobacco exceed by far the surpluses of 1958 crops. (6) The number of industries organized in 1959 topped all previous years' record. Since 1953, a total of 35,520 business firms were organized and registered for operation, about 4 000 of them in the first six months of 1959 alone.

All of these augur well for 1960.

In conclusion, the Republic of the Philippines looks at 1960 with justified optimism. Great forces are at work in the whole world with increasing momentum to attain universal peace. The disarmament talks seem headed towards a happy conclusion. President Eisenhower visited 11 nations on the great mission of peace. Krushchev visited the U. S. avowedly also for peace and all his *pronunciamentos* thereafter were for disarmament. Eisenhower will resume his peace mission to Russia and some Asian countries next spring. The Pax Romana peace conferences have been going on in Manila for the last three or four weeks. All of these are significant advances of the cause of world peace. We in the Philippines have always contributed by all means and in all international conferences for world peace. It is my hope and prayer and the hope and prayer of humanity that in the year of Our Lord 1960 world peace shall finally be attained.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1960). President Garcia's speech at the Manila Overseas Press Club at 8 p.m., January 16, 1960. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 56(3), 503-505.

## **Speech of President Garcia at the Pax Romana Dinner**

### **Speech of His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia President of the Philippines At the Pax Romana Dinner**

[Delivered at the Sky Room, Jai Alai, January 17, 1960]

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THE present Administration sincerely supports the Pax Romana International Movement, as represented here by the Student Catholic Action of the Philippines because the movement, international in scope, aims for enduring world peace founded on justice and moral law and love of our fellowmen. The Administration supports this movement because it rejects the principle embodied in the atomic bomb that "might is right." I support the Pax Romana because it reaffirms on international scale the deathless Pauline principle in 13th Corinthian, viz: "So there abide faith, hope, and love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

Ladies and gentlemen, for fifty bloody centuries before Christ and other twenty turbulent centuries after Christ, dictators and governments have tried to prove that might is right. Even now the atomic bomb has been invented to uphold this doctrine of might. But these human efforts are all in vain because they are against divine justice. Peace based on might is fleeting. Only peace based on justice and love will endure. Only peace based on the eternal laws of the Almighty will prevail.

It is therefore my personal conviction that the great drawbacks of peace are ideologies which discard faith in God. Ideologies that annul human freedom and human dignity are serious obstacles to world peace. Ideologies that are rooted on gross materialism and that use brute force to sanction moral laws, these are the barriers to world peace.

It is for these considerations that I support the Pax Romana Movement in its crusade against these ideologies.

Young men and young women of the Catholic Action, in this connection let me say a few words about another crusade in our country. I refer to the crusade for Philippine economic independence or economic nationalism if you prefer that name. This is a policy involved among the issues of the last election and the people in solemn irrevocable verdict have given it their stamp of approval. They have given the Administration a mandate to go forward and in complying with this mandate I ask the youth of the country to give me their dynamic support.

Our administration on many occasions has been unjustly criticized for its present nationalistic policy. This nationalism has been variously labelled as—bigoted, nearsighted, conceived in hatred, unjust, and uncharitable. The application of these epithets merely stresses the ignorance of the true concept of nationalism, to which the Administration is committed. We have repeatedly enunciated our understanding of nationalism—a love of country and a striving for the national welfare. The pursuit of this "good" cannot be accomplished by a policy of hatred of foreigners nor a desire to deny them justice nor an inclination to do away with everything and anything not Filipino. This is indeed the erroneous and false type of nationalism to which we do not and cannot subscribe. We cannot hope to accomplish the best for our country by a policy of isolating ourselves and incurring the enmity of the world. No nation can now live in a vacuum of economic, cultural, or political isolation.

A people's concept of nationalism reflect their own maturity or immaturity. There can be no more certain symptom of "colonial mentality" than an immature and morbid inferiority complex as a people. A mature people can afford to be friendly with other peoples and cooperate with them for their mutual good. An immature culture is afraid of foreign influences for fear that it may be completely obliterated. I think you will agree with me that we have reached maturity as a free and sovereign people. If we desire what is good for the country, certainly we should strive to assimilate the best that the world has to offer in culture, science, and progress. We need not be afraid that we will lose our individuality. By assimilation and synthesis of what is best regardless of where it comes from, we can

develop a rich cultural heritage. No progressive country today can shut itself out of the interrelationship of other cultures and nation, simply because they are afraid to adulterate their indigenous tradition. In the light of this concept, our nationalism is not anti-alien or anti-American. It is not isolationistic or chauvinistic.

What the Administration has consistently advocated is Economic Nationalism, more popularly known as “Filipino First” policy. This is a policy which gives the Filipino a first preference in the economic development of his own country and in the enjoyment of her natural riches. This policy is based on the order of Providence. Natural resources and local opportunities must be offered first to those to whom they naturally belong. Too long has our economy been dominated by aliens who cannot be expected to have as much interest in the country as the Filipinos themselves. Our economic emancipation must start from ourselves. Our economy has been controlled by aliens since colonial times. We have achieved political independence. Now we have to achieve economic independence. Our foreign friends have won mastery of the economy of the country in the past. And we do not begrudge them credit for this at that time, but certainly under present circumstances they cannot begrudge the Filipino people the right to be masters of their own economic household.

Rizal was the father of nationalism in our country. It was he who gave voice to the muted aspirations of our people to be free, independent, and sovereign in our own land. This is the reason why it is most fitting and proper that our children in the schools should be taught the best of Rizal’s works so that they may be inspired by his ideals and imbued with the fire of his love of country.

However sometimes in our ever eagerness to maintain our economic autonomy—we are apt to follow the true concept of “Filipino First” policy to deteriorate into “Filipino Only.” A rational policy of nationalism is selective but not necessarily exclusive. It is not our intention to shut out doors to foreign traders and businessmen. Our door is always open for their cooperation for mutual benefit in the development of our country. We welcome friendly foreign capital into our country but only such of them as are willing to help us realize our goal under our economic policy and such of them as are willing to collaborate with Philippine capital on a joint venture basis. The vast natural resources of the country to be utilized require plenty more of capital than what is available here.

In conclusion, let me say that sound and enlightened nationalism moored to faith in God and his eternal justice and love is the path our youth should take and never depart from to attain the higher objective—world peace with justice and honor and happiness for all mankind.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1960). The President’s speech at the Pax Romana Dinner held at the Sky Room, Jai Alai, Sunday evening, January 17, 1960. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 56(4), 715-717.



**Speech of President Garcia before the delegates to the Second Regional Conference of UNESCO National Commissions in Asia**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
Before the delegates to the Second Regional Conference of UNESCO National Commissions in Asia**

[Delivered by Education Secretary Jose Romero at the WHO Building, Taft Avenue, January 18, 1960]

MADAM CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN  
OF THIS CONFERENCE,  
MY FRIENDS:

IT IS with real pleasure that I take this opportunity to extend to all of you a most cordial welcome to the Philippines.

It is also with real pleasure that I take this occasion to express the wish that your stay in our midst will not only enable you to achieve the high purpose which brings you here but will also enable you to gain some insight into our thinking and our character, because we Filipinos, as a nation and as a people, are truly one with you, now more than ever, in your endeavor to promote peace with justice and freedom for all mankind.

I wish to make it of record that we deeply appreciate the selection of Manila as the site of this Second Regional Conference of National Commissions for UNESCO in Asia. We feel gratefully in debt to UNESCO for this signal honor and we feel doubly honored because the highest officials of UNESCO have generously chosen fit to journey to our shores and take part in the deliberations of this conference.

To each and every one of you, I say in all sincerity\* "please feel at home," because we would be unhappy if your sojourn amongst us should not be pleasant and fruitful.

I have been given to understand that the basic purpose of this conference is to study the problems of Asian countries educational, scientific, and cultural, and to determine what in the program of UNESCO can be carried out by its Asian commissions working together.

That is a simple description of the task before you, but we are not deceived by the simplicity of the definition. We are aware that the task itself embraces numerous problems of a complex nature, calling as it does, for instance, for closer collaboration among Asian countries in the educational, scientific, and cultural spheres of activity and, indeed, for international goodwill and understanding.

None can be more conscious of the fact than us Asians that great masses of people in vast areas of our enormous territory, even to this dawn of the nuclear age, are still bereft of even the minimum requirements of modern civilized existence.

It is true that we have great wealth in natural resources. We have great wealth in our Asian fields and forests, in our mountains, in our seas. But our needs are equally great. We sadly lack a proper conditioning of our human resources. We need more and more of education, fundamental as well as advanced. We need expert counsel in many fields of human activity. We need amplification and development of technical skills. We need to advance a great deal in the scientific field.

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, we need all this because we need more and more of food, clothing, shelter, and health facilities for our ever-increasing populations—because we need the wherewithal to give a better life to our undernourished millions.

I, therefore, find it most gratifying to address such a gathering as this Second Regional Conference. I say this because I know that UNESCO, as a vital instrumentality of the United Nations, represents, basically, an organized effort of civilized men to assert human rights, and in the greatest possible measure, to substitute enlightenment for ignorance, and well-being for misery and want.

I also find it gratifying to witness such a gathering as this because as a Filipino and as an Asian I am deeply conscious of the need for Asians to be less and less strangers to one another and to know one another more and more.

This forum, I hope, should offer a splendid opportunity for us Asians to look at one another at close range and to open our hearts and minds, as it were, to one another so that we may the better appreciate and understand one another. In so doing, we shall perhaps revitalize our consciousness of a common historical and cultural heritage and strengthen the bonds among us that have been forged by ancient tradition and immemorial time.

But perhaps I digress too far. If I do, it is because I find it compelling to equate the problems that we Filipinos have with the problems of our Asian brothers, and I like to think that if these problems are going to be solved, it will primarily be the task of the Asians themselves to provide the ultimate solution. I say this with due respect to our Western friends who are sincerely solicitous for our welfare. To these friends we extend a warm, fraternal hand.

With this last thought in mind, permit me to return to my original sentiment—that it is to me most gratifying to be able to say a few words to this distinguished gathering, a gathering of distinguished individuals dedicated to the task of finding solutions to the manifold educational, scientific, and cultural problems of Asia. This a conference that should be a source of hope for every underprivileged Asian and indeed for every underprivileged individual anywhere; a source of hope, I say, because it means a further step toward the elimination of human bondage to environments that breed poverty, hunger, and ignorance.

In conclusion, I would like you to bear with me as I dwell briefly on what we in the Philippines have been doing and have been trying to do, within the limits of our resources, to promote the aims and objectives of UNESCO, both by our own efforts and in conjunction with other nations.

In this country we have a legal provision for compulsory education for a period of six years. These six years embrace our elementary school period.

We have a rapidly increasing population and this means that more and more schools have to be provided for our children. At present we spend about one-third of our national budget for education.

In this country we also have a law providing for the building of public libraries all over the land.

We have developed in this country, as you probably recall, the community school system, which promotes democracy at the grass-roots level besides providing fundamental education and instilling in the minds of the people a sense of social responsibility. I understand that this community school system, as we have developed it here is being adopted elsewhere in the world.

We have organized here a National Science Development Board in line with a policy to keep abreast of scientific developments and secure for our people the blessing that emanate from the latest scientific achievements. We expect to train more and more scientists in the years to come. We have, in fact, a unique law which provides for the annual selection of children gifted in things scientific for the best possible training.

Culturally, I am happy to say that we are finding great delight in rediscovering for ourselves the beauty, the charm and the symbolism of our native songs and our dances, both those that have been handed down to us from ancient times by our forbears and those that we have evolved in long years of contact with Western civilization. Perhaps some of you have heard of our student dance group that have captivated many an audience in many parts of the world.

Last but not least, I would like to mention the establishment here of the Asian Youth Institute. We are grateful for having been given the seat of this institute, which, properly nurtured, should develop into a mighty instrument for the promotion of social responsibility and international harmony.

As Asians, we Filipinos are thankful to UNESCO for its manifest interest in the welfare of Asia.

And on behalf of my people, I can say that UNESCO can always count on our support, however humble it may be, for all its efforts to reduce human suffering and ignorance, for its staunch advocacy of human rights, and for its endeavor to instill in the minds of men that it is within their power to achieve peace and prosperity and a truly fraternal civilization for all the world.

I repeat, therefore, that I wish this conference unqualified success. And again I say, please feel at home in our country, and if ever you should desire to come here again, you may be sure that our warmest welcome shall await you.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1960). President Garcia's speech before delegates to the Second Regional Conference of UNESCO National Commissions in Asia, delivered in the morning of January 18, 1960, by Education Secretary Jose Romero at the WHO Building on Taft Avenue. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 56(4), 717-720.

**Speech of President Garcia at the Cornerstone Laying Ceremonies of the First Nuclear Research Center in Southeast Asia held at its proposed site at the U.P. Campus in Diliman, Quezon City, Friday Afternoon, January 22, 1960**

**SPEECH OF PRESIDENT GARCIA AT THE CORNERSTONE LAYING CEREMONIES OF THE FIRST NUCLEAR RESEARCH CENTER IN SOUTHEAST ASIA HELD AT ITS PROPOSED SITE AT THE U.P. CAMPUS IN DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY, FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 22, 1960**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

IT IS an honor and privilege to officiate at the laying of the cornerstone of this country's Philippine Atomic Research Center. I cannot conceive of a more auspicious symbol of our country's great hopes for this decade than this afternoon's ceremonies. Here on this now barren piece of earth, in the *first* month of the *first* year of the Nineteen Sixties, we have laid the *first* stone of a structure that will enable us to harness the atom's might for accelerated national growth. The occasion even lends itself to the special cooperative nature of our atomic project. It marks the first public appearance of the new Ambassador from the United States which donated the reactor for our nuclear center.

The decade we have just left behind was a period of dynamic change in our history. It saw the start of an ambitious industrialization effort which brought great strides of progress in all fronts, manufacturing, mining, agriculture, and trade and made us substantially self-sufficient in food and in many consumer goods and gave work to thousands of otherwise idle hands.

It witnessed a rediscovery of our rural masses, their awakening and their metamorphosis into a social and political force that, more than any other factor, has injected urgency into our efforts for swift material growth.

The last decade marked the articulation and the eventual sweeping acceptance by both government and people of nationalism, especially in its simple and natural concept that the Filipinos, in their own land, are entitled to a major share of their country's wealth, and that the vast opportunities laid open by a billowing economy legitimately belongs in good part to him.

Among others, during the last ten years, a communist rebellion was subdued and its last pockets of resistance eradicated. In agriculture, after hobbling along on the usual chronic insufficiency in staples, the last years saw an amazing leap into agricultural surpluses in rice, corn, and Virginia tobacco. Vast forests yielded their treasure in the form of logs, lumber, and other products. Mineral resources jumped to a leading place in our production and export lists. In trade, it was a period of rapid expansion both in products and markets. In the later years, helped along by controls, there was by a constant narrowing down of the unfavorable gap in our trade balance, culminating in an unprecedented favorable margin in 1959.

During the same period, the government channeled millions into the construction of roads, bridges, buildings, airports, railroads, and irrigation systems. It set up the first truly national rural health system. It committed itself fully to a multi-million community development program designed to attack rural ills at their roots. It provided millions of homebuilders, farmers, traders, and industrialists with credit through its lending institutions. Controls set up to check the massive drain in dollars was in the later years redirected to support an industrial development program.

By the close of the Nineteen Fifties, the results of these and a host of other government measures had manifested themselves in such diverse manners as a passionately active and vocal electorate, a rapidly changing and expanding landscape, a cascade of locally made products, a gross national product that rose from ₱6.2 billion in 1950 to ₱10.7 billion in 1959, an increasing tempo in both our rate of economic growth and patterns of living.

We look back almost in awe at the road we have traveled in the last ten years. They were in retrospect a period of revolutionary and startling achievement in almost all fields.

But the achievements of the decade, tremendous as they are, only serve to bring into clearer focus the problems that continue to beset us.

Our population has grown, and continues to grow, at a tremendous rate. Our expanding economy can hardly keep pace with our expanding labor force many of whom continue to remain unemployed or under-employed. Much of our forest resources have been denuded, our fishing grounds destroyed. Two of our major export industries, coconut and abaca, have been attacked by mysterious diseases. A good portion of our people continue to live out their lives in illiteracy or disease, or both. Our growing industry and agriculture continue to demand technical skills, better methods and processes, new means of utilizing wastes, of improving products, of creating new ones from abundant raw materials.

Thus while looking back into the Fifties in the consciousness of achievement, we do so in the realization that our problems have compounded themselves and that some have even grown more unyielding to ordinary solutions.

And while looking hopefully into the Nineteen Sixties as a period of still greater victories, we know that the promise of the next decade can be fulfilled only if we find solutions to many of the attendant problems in our growing economy.

Many of our present difficulties are political and social in nature seeking their answers in the world of intangibles. But just as many—and those above mentioned belong largely to this category—are concrete enough and find their solutions in such realities as science and technology.

In fact an appraisal of many of our ills will reveal science as *the common denominator* in their solution. Like so many other countries, we have been drawn into the irrevocable conclusion that on science depends many of the answers to our problems, both old and new.

We claim with pride, as one of the Administration's contributions, our categorical support for a greatly expanded and nationally integrated scientific program. Under Republic Act 2067, which created the National Science Development Board, we committed ourselves to the concept of using scientific knowledge as an instrument for the promotion of national progress. In support of this year's science program, the sum of ₱5.9 million was provided. This includes the outlays for the National Science Development Board, the National Institute of Science and Technology, and the Philippine Atomic Energy Commission only and does not include the other millions spent by other agencies partially engaged in research.

In a policy speech delivered last year, we clarified our support toward efforts to gear our scientific research program to overall economic plans, grant priority to researches aimed at discovering solutions to our more pressing economic problems, promote science-consciousness among our people, and build up an expanded core of competent scientists through increased salaries, scholarships, awards, and other incentives. In short, we promised to grant the country's science effort the measure of financial, moral, and administrative support it deserves.

These commitments, we believe have been faithfully kept within the resources allowed us. It is only too true, however, that considering the expanding frontiers of science, larger financial subsidies could easily be absorbed by an expanded research program. Certainly, because of the government's limited financial resources, our efforts so far cannot fully measure up to the vast opportunities for scientific endeavor. Moreover, research, since it deals primarily with unknowns, is necessarily an expensive process. But serious efforts will be exerted to remedy this financial gap.

The Administration will seriously explore the possibility of utilizing a portion of the marginal levies on dollar remittances to support an expanded science program. It will consider as well the idea of channeling a part of import duties to the same purpose. And it will examine the proposal that the budgets of our science agencies be approved on a five-year continuing basis to prevent the undue hampering of research activities by funds annually—thus inconveniently appropriated. These three measures will, singly or in combination, enable Philippine science to attune itself to the world-wide dynamic growth of science and technology.

On the same occasion, we made special mention of our support for the multi-million nuclear research center in Quezon City to house a reactor granted by the American Government under a bilateral agreement. Under the science master schedule, we hope to have the facility ready at the end of 1960 and in full operation by the middle of 1961. This afternoon's ceremonies is the precursor to the fulfillment of that enterprise, easily our country's most outstanding science project to date.

The background of our Atomic Research Center has been amply explained to you by the preceding honorable speakers it will be sufficient, I hope, if I reiterate our people's thanks to generous America, ably represented here by Ambassador Hickerson, for the grant that has made this center possible. Indeed, our Center is a study in Philippine-American cordial bilateral effort.

Great things are expected of our reactor center. As the focal point in researches involving the use of radioactive material, it is expected to contribute substantially to the advancement of science in this country. Its radioactive by-products will be utilized in experimental physics, engineering, chemistry, and biology. Within its confines, studies in nuclear engineering and, subsequently, atomic power will be conducted. While performing primarily as a center for research, it will serve also as a training institution in the new field of nuclear science. Scientists from all over the Philippines and possibly neighboring countries will be taught the many uses of the radioisotope in medicine and biology.

We now import radioisotopes in the treatment of goiter and tumors and in the study of human metabolism in medical diagnosis. We import radioactive matter for use in studies on soil fertility, genetics, and pest control. Our efforts are naturally limited. The birth of the reactor will mean the large scale production of this versatile tool of science, which will in turn trigger larger and more intensive experimentation. Industry will turn to this Center in the years to come for assistance in improving their processes and techniques, their products. Industrialists will use nuclear energy to check metal faults, measure thickness, and produce heat-resistant substances. From its portals will pour forth a wealth of scientific information that will help provide answers to economic problems otherwise incapable of solution by conventional research methods. On the basis of our Center, our entry into the international fraternity for the atom's peaceful utilization under a regime of freedom will be complete.

From the date of its inauguration and for years thereafter, the edifice we have dedicated today will stand as a symbol of Philippine scientific achievement nurtured under the atmosphere of bilateral cooperation. But more than that, it will also personify our efforts to give our people— through the magic vehicle of science—the means for the attainment of a full abundant life.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH AT THE LAUNCHING CEREMONIES OF THE 1960 RED CROSS FUND CAMPAIGN, AT MALACAÑANG SOCIAL HALL, AT 5:30 P.M., FEBRUARY 16, 1960**

WE PAUSE from the urgent toils of the day to dedicate ourselves to another task as urgent as any, but probably more far-reaching than most because it touches upon the lives of thousands of our fellowmen.

The role of the Red Cross in our national life is clear and well defined. The Red Cross is on the job at all times, filling in needs in the community which, if left unfilled, would leave us lesser and poorer. Our task, therefore, is to guarantee through our generous support that the Red Cross stays on the job. It might bear repeating that the jobs to which the Red Cross applies itself are many and varied, each one a vital part of the social welfare pattern of the country.

Our campaign, therefore, must make certain that gifts from business organizations, from employees groups, and from individuals are truly commensurate with what the Red Cross means to all of us. I have complete faith that the nation will readily respond to our appeal with the same vigor and warmth that has always met Red Cross appeals in the past.

Further, I authorize all national, provincial, city, and municipal government officials and school authorities to accept for the Philippine National Red Cross, fund raising responsibilities, and more important still, I urge them to take the initiative and active leadership in their respective communities.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**Speech of President Garcia at the opening of the BPSIAA held at the Rizal Memorial Stadium, Saturday Afternoon, February 20, 1960**  
**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH AT THE OPENING OF THE BPSIAA**  
**HELD AT THE RIZAL MEMORIAL STADIUM, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 20, 1960**

IT IS with great pleasure that I have come to witness the opening ceremonies of the 1960 Bureau of Public Schools Interscholastic Athletic Association Meet, which is being held in Manila this year. The colorful parade of the athletes composing the eight delegations which will compete for honors in this meet was not only impressive; it was indeed most inspiring. And as I gaze upon this fine array of strong, healthy, and robust young men and women before me, I cannot but be thrilled by the realization of the fact that, assembled in this stadium, we have, as it were, the flower of Filipino manhood and womanhood upon whom our country can depend for the fulfillment of its dream of building in this part of the world a strong and progressive nation dedicated to the ideals of peace, liberty, and democracy.

I congratulate the Department of Education and the Bureau of Public Schools for having initiated and continued the practice of holding these athletic meets. Year after year, with the exception of the war period, these meets have been held regularly, so much so that they have practically become a veritable national institution. Of course, I am aware of the fact that this meet is but part and parcel of the splendid program of physical education which the Department has been carrying out consistently all these years. It is a laudable program and I am wholeheartedly for it. In fact, I would like to have every boy and girl in our schools take some form of physical exercises so that our youth will be able to build up their bodies and enjoy good health. I would like to see every school adopt and carry out a program of athletics for everybody.

But in addition to the requirement of physical education for all, we need specialized athletics for the select few who show promise of developing into star athletes who can be trained for national and international competitions. We must continually discover and train young talents, for the revival in modern times of the ancient Olympic festivals places upon our shoulders the responsibility of preparing seasoned athletes who will be able to uphold our national prestige in friendly competitions in the field of amateur sports. Our country has participated in these international [meets a number of times, and I feel that we have done fairly well. And if we made a creditable showing, it is because, through such contests as this which we are about to witness, we have created the atmosphere and provided the proper incentive for success in world competitions.

I am a firm believer in the value of these athletic meets. I am a staunch advocate of the development of physical strength, endurance, and stamina among our people, because I am convinced, that an intelligent, hardy, and vigorous population is one of the strongest guarantees that our country can have for the continued enjoyment of its freedom and national security. That is why in 1958 I announced during the meet in Tagbilaran my approval for an annual instead of a biennial national interscholastic meet. I wish to take this opportunity to renew that endorsement.

However, it is not the development of physical prowess and skill alone that makes these annual meets commend themselves to public approval. They also provide an excellent medium for the unification of our people. Through these, people from all over the country are brought together. Athletes, parents, teachers, and spectators come together and inevitably exchange ideas and impressions. And since these meets are held in different provinces each year, our athletes and their friends have splendid opportunity to see and know these places and to get acquainted with their people. Out of such knowledge and such acquaintance will come better understanding and closer unity among our people.

Finally, I wish to remind the athletes that in the contests in which they are about to exhibit their prowess and skill, it is of extreme importance that they observe the rules of the game, for the main thing to remember in competitions of this kind is not so much the winning of the game as the way one wins it. Indeed, the most valuable lesson the athletes can learn from their participation in this meet is the spirit of sportsmanship, a virtue we also need in our national life. And so I charge the participants to play the game squarely and fairly. Be generous in victory and gracious in defeat. With these words, I close my remarks and wish each and every one of the participants all manner of success. Let the best man and team win.



*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**Speech of President Carlos P. Garcia speech on the occasion of the ROTC Field Day, February 20, 1960, read by Defense Secretary Alejo Santos**  
**PRESIDENT CARLOS P. GARCIA'S SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF THE ROTC FIELD DAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1960, READ BY DEFENSE SECRETARY ALEJO SANTOS**

THIS yearly gathering of ROTC cadets of the various colleges and universities of Manila serves to remind one and all that a young republic like ours recognizes in its fullest sense the importance of the role that the educated young men of this country must play in the common endeavor of nation building.

The defense of the fatherland is incumbent upon every citizen. Of our multifarious civic responsibilities the duty to take up arms in defense of our sovereign rights must take precedence. You, the ROTC cadets, realize this fact more perhaps than the rest of your generation. Those of you who have done some readings in the development of constitutional government must know the historical fact that survival of democracy vis-a-vis determined efforts of despots to suppress human freedom and dignity depends mainly on equally determined efforts on the part of lovers of freedom to prepare for self-defense.

The framers of our constitution knew this. Reason and the instinct for self-preservation actuated them into unanimously legislating as the first law of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, Commonwealth Act No. 1, otherwise known as the National Defense Act. It provided among other things for the creation of a citizen army whose training would be a joint endeavor of the national government and the educational institutions of the country. You belong to that citizen army. You go through systematic military training to prepare yourselves not for war but for peace. You will be a part of a reserve force of officers and noncommissioned officers who when the need comes will be called upon to lead the fight in defense of our existence as a free and happy people should this be endangered by enemies within or enemies outside our own borders.

The citizen army should not be confused with the regular defense force whose members are professional soldiers. Unless called to active duty, a reserve officer is no more a professional soldier than an ordinary citizen. This distinction you must bear in mind, for as civilians you have special duties to perform in relation to nation building, duties which are peculiar to your own individual pursuit in life. For the present and in the foreseeable future we have no reason to feel our way of life will be threatened by forces so strong and so destructive as to necessitate the calling of our reserve force to active military service. Nations, great and small, the world over are continually seeking the peace that would make our world a happier place to live in. And for as long as all nations desire peace, and we have no reason to believe they do not, we hope never to see again the day when, as I in the last war, the flowers of our Pilipino manhood shall be sacrificed in the fields of battle.

Your military training therefore must be harnessed towards the fulfillment of another vital role that you must play as responsible citizens of the republic. The efforts and the expense that went into preparing you for the military service shall have been amply paid back a hundred fold should you apply the experience and the discipline you have learned in the process in helping to give substance and meaning to the spirit of Filipino nationalism which has become the guiding principle of my administration.

You have the fortunate advantage of enriching your educational background with the rigid discipline of military life short as this might have been. You are, so to speak, prepared to understand and assume the responsibility of erecting in this land a truly great nation, conscious of its right to make full use of the gifts of life and substance God in His divine justice has given our people.

The nationalism I speak of, is not, as the critics of my administration would want to understand it, designed to exclude from participation in the utilization of the opportunities in commerce and trade with which our country is so abundantly endowed the aliens among us and those who might want to come here to share with us the wealth of the land, but to give to every Filipino preference and priority over them, since this is the only way we as a people can assert our independence, and to keep alive national dignity and self-respect. Neither does it contemplate isolation from the rest of the world. Rather than deny, it promotes healthier relations with other nations since in asserting our national sovereignty in international affairs, we bring to the attention of the whole world the fact of the equality of nations be they large or small. This is a national philosophy which you can be proud of You and your children after

you shall enjoy the glory of the day when the motives behind the Filipino First Policy shall have become a reality. Contrary to the claims of my friends in the opposition, Filipino nationalism,—the Filipino First Policy—is not an insuperable barrier to the attainment of our aspiration to remain a part of the community of nations. It is only when we shall have learned to appreciate our own culture and history and the righteousness of being truly in control of our economic and industrial resources that we can fully be cognizant of our rightful place in the brotherhood of nations.

The Filipino First policy is not merely a slogan. It is a practical program for national survival and has gone far beyond the blueprint stage. I am particularly happy for this opportunity to bring to your attention the fact that your advantages of education and military background can play an enviable part in the implementation of this design for a happier way of life. You can be the instrument with which the prosperity and national dignity of our people envisioned in the Filipino First policy can be realized.

The physical training that you have gone through has made you strong in body and mind. You are, therefore, fit to undertake the hard and strenuous job ahead. We need your strength to pursue without let-up the demands of our expanding agricultural, economical, and industrial areas.

We must have leaders in all the fields of endeavor in which our people are engaged. The ROTC is primarily a training institution for future leaders. You have been prepared to take positions of leadership as officers not only in a military command but also in the community where you live. In business, a highly competitive field, leaders for the task of steering our march towards economic independence are vitally needed. You will be equal to the challenge. Those who preceded you had more than proved beyond doubt that, when the occasion demanded, the ROTC cadet would be there to assume leadership. And so was it in the election of 1951. What was generally believed to be an election fraught with disorder and mockery became a most peaceful and clean one. Thanks to ROTC cadets who volunteered to police the election.

The spirit of patriotism which must temper every activity in which you will be engaged has been instilled in you. This too goes a long way towards preparing you to accept responsibility without misgivings. We must have men possessed of a well-balanced sense of values lest we mistake unbridled nationalism for the gentle severity of true nationalism.

I, for one, am of the opinion that conditions have changed since our illustrious leader and statesman, Manuel Quezon, in righteous indignation made the following statement:

... “We the Filipinos of today are soft and easygoing. Our tendency is toward parasitism. We are uninclined to sustained strenuous effort. We lack earnestness. Face-saving is the dominant note ... of our existence. Our norm of conduct is ... expediency rather than principles. ... We are frivolous in our view of life. ... We take our religion lightly. We think that lip-service and profession are equivalent to deep and abiding faith. We are inconstant. We lack perseverance; the first difficulties baffle us, and we easily admit defeat.”

What was painfully true at the time when this statement was made may now be but only apparent. A profounder sense of values has taken possession of our people. No less than a deep sense of nationalism among our countrymen today has led me to take exception to this fatherly admonition given at such a time as try men's soul by a man no greater nationalist succeeding generations has yet produced. A demonstration of my belief in the capacity of our people for national discipline is not hard to find. Young, imaginative men, enthused with the spirit behind the Filipino First policy are now invariably found in almost all fields of human endeavor; in high finance, in industry, in commerce, in education—nationalistic Filipinos all are found who merit emulation by all Filipinos for they have the courage to lead the way to follow.

You are no less capable, no less imbued with the sense of duty to go forth with vision and with the will to do the right in the fulfillment of a great promise. You are ready to be a “Filipino First” whatever your chosen profession may be. Having the advantages necessary to lead other young men and women in the common task of building a truly Filipino nation, you cannot in conscience say to yourself, “This I cannot do.” The promise is there—the fulfillment is in your hands, and when the time comes I would with Zulueta de Costa cry out:

“I see man standing up to the challenge of the centuries, head flung skyward, proud, pushing darkness back with a single candle.

I see man naked and shivering in the four winds, defiant, and arrogant in the clamoring blast, warm with the fire of his single candle.

In him I see multitude of long accumulations and great prophesies hastening to fulfillment.”

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia before the Opening Plenary Session of the 7th National Convention of  
Manufacturers and Producers, February 27, 1960**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
Before the Opening Plenary Session of the 7<sup>th</sup> National Convention  
of Manufacturers and Producers**

*[Delivered at Winter Garden Manila Hotel at 12:15 p.m., February 27, 1960]*

PRESIDENT SISON DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,  
MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE CHAMBER  
OF INDUSTRIES, FRIENDS, LADIES AND  
GENTLEMEN:

I WISH to congratulate the Philippine Chamber of Industries for the initiative and great efforts it has exerted in holding for the 7th time, the National Convention of Manufacturers and Producers of the Philippines. It cannot be denied that it is in national convention like this where our common economic problems could be effectively ventilated and threshed out for the interest and benefit of the national economy.

After almost a decade since we launched our program of agro-industrial development, plenty of water has passed under the bridge, and I feel that we can now look back and scan the industrial horizon with the view to taking stock of the achievements and progress Philippine industry has attained during the most critical period of her national life.

On various occasions in my state-of-the-nation messages to the Congress of the Philippines, I have invariably emphasized that the primary and lasting concern of our government is to provide and maintain a dynamic, diversified, and stabilized economy for our country in order to promote the economic and social well-being of our people.

This very desirable objective can be attained if we could only provide a progressively increasing number of job opportunities and steady employment for our growing labor force, increase per capita income in this country, and bring about a more equitable distribution of wealth and income.

Because of these fundamental economic objectives, we have embarked on a bold program of agro-industrial development geared towards the total mobilization of our potential wealth, technical know-how, capital, and manpower resources so as to strengthen and accelerate the pace of our economic development.

As early as 1946, our Congress enacted R. A. No. 35, known as the tax exemption law, to encourage our entrepreneurs to engage in new and necessary industries. This law was amended by R. A. No. 901 in 1953, which provided for more incentives to investors willing to invest in manufacturing ventures.

With the institution of exchange and import controls in 1950, our program of industrialization was provided a forceful “leap forward”, and with the enactment of the protective New Tariff Code, with its Anti-dumping and Banning provisions as well as liberal credit facilities, the backdrop was beautifully set for the speedy development of our manufacturing industries.

To buttress further the economic scene, we have oriented our economic structure to the ultimate goal of providing a more abundant and fruitful life for the masses of our population.

While it is the fundamental policy that the private sector should lead the role and participate actively in promoting industrial and economic growth of the country by providing the mobilizing force in business undertakings, the Administration, within the limitations of its resources, has been devoting increasingly larger amounts each year for economic development.

Starting at ₱162 million in 1953, appropriation for economic development have increased considerably as follows: ₱287 million in 1954; ₱355 million in 1956; ₱378 million in 1958; and ₱389 million in 1960. I feel that, as private enterprise develop industrially to full capacity, these appropriations for stimulating and pioneering economic development should correspondingly be increased.

For capital outlays alone in 1960, our 5-year fiscal plan recommended 4.5 million for credit facilities for the private sector; ₱43.6 million for irrigation, agriculture, river control, and land reform; ₱100 million for transportation, communications, highway, railway, port facilities, and shipping; ₱21.7 million for power and steel development; and ₱7 million for other essential projects, reaching a total of ₱176.8 million.

With these economic development projects, I feel that the private sector would be in a better position to participate vigorously in engaging in productive enterprises because of the favorable climate and facilities provided for them, all of which are essential and important to the over-all economic progress.

Our economic planners have envisioned that if the 5-year fiscal plan which I submitted to Congress would be effectively implemented and we succeed in creating a healthy atmosphere for the growth and expansion of our country's productive potentials, and with the full support and cooperation of the private sector, it is estimated that the national income would reach ₱11.3 million in 1964, showing an annual average increase of about 4 per cent from 1959, while the per capita income of the people would increase from ₱384 in 1958 to ₱399 in 1954 which is definitely higher than most of the per capita incomes of the countries in Southeast Asia.

In order that we can achieve our national economic objectives in an atmosphere of stability and strength as well as higher productivity for the private sector, the emphasis on expenditures outlined under the 5-year fiscal plan is laid on (1) programs which directly promote industrial and agricultural productivity, (2) expenditures which facilitate the operation of dollar-earning and dollar-saving industries in the private sector, and (3) income producing projects. In the long run increased productivity provides real guarantee for economic stability.

Ladies and gentlemen, the establishment of manufacturing industries is frequently considered as the ultimate aim of economic development. While this view is not exactly right, it however indicates that a spirit of enterprise now pervades among our people and that our entrepreneurs have gone far beyond the beaten paths of an agricultural economy to venture out into the realm of technical and more complex productive activities—manufacturing.

But lest we forget in our over-enthusiasm in the industrialization effort, let me remind you that we cannot ignore the importance of agriculture in our economic set-up. I feel that no lasting development in industrialization can be achieved if agricultural development were neglected. Agriculture; and industry must progress hand in hand. Real industrial development to be enduring and strong must rest on the solid foundation of agriculture.

I must congratulate most warmly the leaders of industry that compose this organization who have taken counsel with the pioneering and romantic spirit, and have disdained to listen to the reactionary and the prophets of doom and the professional fault-finding critics by daring into new frontiers of industrial enterprises. Now we can proudly say that we have proven equal to the dream of Rizal in his famous writing entitled *The Philippine a Century Hence*. The industrial center on highway 54 is the fulfillment of Rizal's vision in the immortal chapter of *El Filibusterismo* entitled "Dreams."

This romantic spirit of our industrialist is the force which brought about the transformation of our economy from that of purely agrarian to that of agro-industrial economy. The advances we have made were very impressive, and again I say for emphasis that the pioneering and enterprising spirit of our people accounts mainly for the great advancement of our national economy.

The Philippine Chamber of Industries, which is the leading exponent of industrial progress in this country, fully deserves the popular plaudits showered upon it.

As your President I make the following pledges and recapitulations: (1) I shall continue to extend all the protection and incentives to industry. Government corporations that now can be taken over by private enterprise will be liquidated and turned over to the private sector of the economy. (2) To spread the benefits of industrialization to our rural population, we are drawing up plans for the dispersal of industries. In this industrial dispersal plan, we will take into consideration the relative development of the provinces, the existing natural resources and available manpower, and the various methods by which reasonable incentives and assistance may be provided by the government to accelerate the establishment of industries in rural areas. The permanency, location, and reliability of raw material for a particular industry have to be considered. (3) I will cause the Reparations Agreement to be implemented in such a way as to spread more equitably to the greatest number the benefits of such reparations agreement of industries. (4) As we are in great need of investible funds for economic development, I have strongly recommended the abolition of the capital gains tax so that resources tied up in these assets could be converted into liquid assets, provided that these liquid assets shall be ploughed back to industry. (5) The establishment of the integrated steel industry will be pushed vigorously by the Administration because iron and steel and its alloys constitute the backbone and basis of 101 other industries. Our program of industrialization will not be complete if we will continue importing the machineries for manufacture and we cannot produce machinery and equipment for manufacturing without the steel industry. Hence, our determination to establish the steel industry.

The proposed steel plant will be located in Iligan, Lanao, so that it will be near our hydro-electric power in Maria Cristina Falls. It will be versatile and flexible in the sense that it could be made to produce economically the multiple iron and steel products needed by the country and if demands increase in the future, the plant has the flexibility to expand its productive capacity without major additional expenditure in machinery and equipment. The estimated capitalization for the project is ₱120 million with 51 per cent thereof coming from the government and 49 per cent from private sector. It shall be under private management. If in full operation, the plant is expected to produce 230,000 tons of steel products annually with a value of about ₱86 million, sufficient to meet the normal demands of industry. It will be so constructed as to double production without new capital investment. (6) I realize the vital role played by the institution of controls in accelerating the pace of our economic development and the incentives they provide for the establishment of industries. While these industries are in infancy stage, they need government protection. Immediate withdrawal of protective controls is to court disaster. The gradual lifting of controls therefore must be preceded with a serious study of its consequences to industry and immediate institution of safeguards and complementary legislation and regulation for the safety of these industries. This is the reason why in my last message to Congress, I have strongly recommended the creation of a Special Bicameral Congressional Committee to undertake a comprehensive study on integrated gradual decontrol program with the assistance and cooperation of the Central Bank, Tariff, Customs, and Budget Commission, and with the participation of the Chambers of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture. (7) Last but not least, no new taxes will be approved this year, although there will be intensification of tax collection drive.

As you are the architects of our industrial development, I feel proud and happy of your accomplishments. With the full support of our people and with the help of Divine Providence, I have absolute faith that this generation will accomplish its part in the continuing task of nation-building and will achieve for our people the enduring progress and national contentment.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**Speech of President Carlos P. Garcia during the Inaugural Program of the 6th National Convention of Filipino Businessmen, in Baguio City, at 9:30 a.m., March 3, 1960**  
**PRESIDENT CARLOS P. GARCIA'S**  
**SPEECH DURING THE INAUGURAL PROGRAM OF THE 6TH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF**  
**FILIPINO BUSINESSMEN, IN BAGUIO CITY, AT 9:30 A.M., MARCH 3, 1960**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I AM happy to be with you today. This convention of Filipino businessmen from all over the country is a clear manifestation of the gathering strength of Filipino nationalism. It attests to the maturity of our business leaders gathered here who compose the vanguard in the nation's determined march towards economic independence. I am grateful to the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines which is sponsoring the Sixth National Convention of Filipino Businessmen here in Baguio City in cooperation with the Baguio Chamber of Commerce. Their efforts are lending active support to the course which my administration has set for the development of a national norm of conduct and behavior consistent with our dignity as a sovereign and free people. As such they are a distinct contribution to the cause of the Filipino-First movement.

The Filipino-First movement which you are spearheading is of tremendous significance to our life as a people. Led as it is by citizens like you who belong to the middle and entrepreneur classes of our society, it is militant, dedicated, and inspired. Our people have embraced it and are already afire with the desire to help push it through to its logical goal, which is nothing short of complete economic freedom. By complete economic freedom, we, of course, mean freedom to chart a course for the development of our economy with reasonable assurance that the fruits of such growth would spread from the top of the business and social pyramid down to its base among the rural population in our countryside. We mean the right to pursue such a course of action and implement whatever policies would insure the exploitation and development of our God-given resources and manpower and preserve and further enrich our national patrimony which we shall bequeath to our children and our children's children to the end of time.

This economic independence is the most cherished prerogative of the young developing nations of the world which, like the Philippines, emerged politically independent after World War II. To achieve this independence at the shortest possible time, it is imperative that we draw inspiration from the nationalistic tradition of our race from whose womb strode forth such great nationalists as Lapu-Lapu, Dagohoy, Bonifacio, Rizal, and Aguinaldo, and many other stars in the grand constellation of Filipino nationalism. Great causes call for great leaders and God who has not failed other nations will not fail us. From among you He will anoint the leader who will guide you to the Promised Land of our Economic Independence. The upsurge of nationalism throughout Asia and Africa is a movement global in proportion which will irrevocably roll on until its cycle is completed. Only God can measure the cosmic creativeness of this nationalistic saga.

This common desire finds expression in the various political and social ideologies that are identified in Asian society today. They range from the democratic precepts to socialism and communism. But the goal is the same. It is to shake off the yoke of alien domination in business, trade, commerce, and industry. We are fortunate in the Philippines that 'the nationalist movement so forceful today is being pursued within the framework of a democratic society, unlike in other places where the fight of the common people for economic survival is being exploited by the enemies of democracy for their own selfish ends. That is why confidence that friends of democracy will understand the true meaning and direction of the Filipino-First movement. It seeks to elevate to dominant proportion the participation of Filipinos in our own national economy within the framework of our democratic tradition. It is directed against no alien group. It is inspired by the great principle of social justice on the international plane. The Filipino-First movement can not and must not be equated with any ideology that works against the accepted tenets of democracy. It is, as some sympathetic visitors in our shores have understood, aimed at securing for a greater number of our fellow-citizens the blessings of our rich natural resources and of our democratic way of life. It is not exclusivistic; on the contrary it bears the stamp of Filipino hospitality.

I would like to believe that because of the inherent justness and fairness of our aspiration to become economically free, more of our foreign friends who have been with us for years are beginning to understand the motive force behind the Filipino-First policy. There are indications of increasing sympathy for the Filipino-First policy. I am



certain that this changing attitude has been brought about largely by the assertive determination of our people and the present Administration to carry into fruition the Filipino-First policy.

It is well that our alien friends should attune themselves to the changing mental and moral attitudes of our people. Those of them who have come as friends of our country and who are sincerely interested in contributing their capital and know-how to the greater good of the nation have no cause for alarm. They have our assurance that their rights as guaranteed by our constitution and laws shall be respected. Our traditional sense of fairness and world-renowned hospitality forbid us from resorting to unjust treatment of foreigners just because they are foreigners. But like all other Filipinos, I am concerned with the conduct of those outsiders who come to our shores not imbued with the high purpose of helping build our nation. These people, my Mends, are part of those who are behind the irregularities and anomalies that are responsible for draining our dollar reserve and weakening the moral fiber of our citizens both in and out of the government service. Your government is aware of their activities and is taking proper steps to bring all these criminally liable before the bar of justice. Those caught will be punished to the full extent of the law. We shall see to it that their nefarious practices intended to circumvent our major economic policies or to frustrate our national efforts are unmasked and severely penalized to make them realize the futility of such activities.

It is time we showed the world that we can run our business affairs as well as others. While we do not mean to exclude foreigners from the legitimate pursuit of business enterprises in our country, we have reached the point where we will no longer tolerate their dominance in our economy. We have matured as a people. The experience we have gained in the exercise of our sovereign prerogatives as a republic since 1946 has strengthened the confidence of our people in our ability to pursue the concepts of self determination farther in the economic field. The thousands of new and enterprising Filipino businessmen who have fired the imagination and elicited admiration from their compatriots are a living testimony to our capacity to attend successfully to our business. I dare say that this newly acquired confidence which feeds upon the realization that political independence without economic freedom is at best a mere illusion, is the cornerstone upon which we are building a new nation of competent artisans, traders, industrialists, farmers, and technical men and women.

My friends, slowly but surely the dawn of a new day of real and substantive economic independence is breaking in our Eastern horizon. As I have pointed out in my message to Congress on the state of the nation we touched a few peaks in progress highway in 1959, among which are: (a) We not only have achieved for the first time in the 20th century self-sufficiency in food, but also have already garnered sizeable surpluses in rice, corn, and Virginia tobacco; (b) we chalked up for the first time in postwar history a favorable balance of payments; (c) we have considerably increased our foliar reserves after paying \$84 million of our foreign loans and other obligations; and (d) we considerably stabilized the financial and monetary position of our government. Other achievements I need not mention on the assumption that Philippine business has digested the message even more thoroughly than some congressmen have done.

Some ambition-inspired, fault-finding critics of the Administration attempted to dismiss these as fantastic claims, a mirage not based on reality. It is unbelievable how criticism could go down so biased and perverted as to deny our people the capacity to grow. Compared with the considered judgment of competent observers from abroad, the opinion of our critics would look like a betrayal of our country's record of achievement.

As instances, I take the liberty of extracting some highlights from the report of the IMF mission that recently came to review the Philippine economic situation. Here are some of their observations: (1) In the national income and production there were significant gains in the Philippine economy during 1959. The combined index of the physical volume of production for agriculture, mining, manufacturing increased by 6%. These increases in output were considerably larger than those in 1958. Of particular importance was the increase of 15% in rice production and 19% in corn production. (2) Manufacturing production during the first six months of 1959 showed an increase of 11% compared to the same period in 1958, and this upward trend is expected to continue through the last half of the year.

On balance of payments and exchange reserves, the IMF mission said: "The payments position showed a significant improvement in 1959. Import payments in 1960 are scheduled at \$532 million which is 11% higher than those in 1959. In 1959 international reserves increased by \$64 million. This is the biggest increase in any year in the postwar period except in 1950."

So much for the IMF observations. Here is the report of the U. S. Department of Commerce published in its official weekly recently: "The U. S. commerce department says the Philippine economic outlook for 1960 is brighter than prospects were at the beginning of 1959."

At the same time, says the department, the Philippine economy in 1959 showed "steady, moderate improvement over that of 1958, and for the first time in the postwar period actually registered a commodity export surplus both in terms of total trade and in trade with the United States.

"These conclusions were drawn in the annual review of the economic situation in the Far East, printed Friday in the department's publication Foreign Commerce Weekly.'

"The impact of Philippine fiscal and monetary measures was beginning to be felt in full by the end of 1959.

"Favorable growing conditions augur well for continued high yields of cereal and sugar crops. Prospects for continued high prices of copra, abaca, and minerals are good."

My friends, in the light of the highly encouraging conclusions about our economic achievements emitted after a careful observation and consideration by highly competent experts in the field, we have every reason and incentive to march onward and forward to new frontiers of progress and development under the magic touch of the resurgent Filipino nationalism heedless of the Jeremiahs or the prophets of doom and disaster.

The imperatives of economic survival place a heavy responsibility on our shoulders. A large portion of that burden rests with you as leaders in the business communities which you represent in this convention. The pressure of population which increases at the rate of close to three per cent annually, the problems of unemployment and underproduction, the difficulties attendant to industrialization—these are some of the major obstacles that stand in our way. The dimensions of these problems are enormous. They have ramifications in our political, economic, and social structures. They involve imponderables such as the magnitude and nature of foreign capital willing to come in partnership with Filipino entrepreneurs, tremendous financing requirements for the establishment of basic and medium industries. But, no matter how gigantic these problems may appear, we find consolation in the fact that in the exercise of our sovereign prerogative to chart the course of the national economy we have so far been fairly successful, and I am proud to say that as long as the "Filipino businessmen will continue in their romantic, daring, and self-confident spirit under the inspiration of the Filipino First policy, the future of prosperity and happiness will be ours.

Let us therefore now and always unite behind the Filipino First movement and redeem our land from foreign economic domination for bequeathing a free economy to this generation and the generations of Filipinos yet sleeping in the Womb of Time. Let us build the House of the Nation on rock. "And the rains fell and flood came, and the tempests blew and beat against that House and it fell not because it was built on rock."

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia at the Kick-Off Ceremony of the World Refugee Fund Campaign**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the Kick-Off Ceremony of the World Refugee Fund Campaign**

[Delivered at Malacañang, March 10, 1960]

COMMISSIONER  
GOVERNOR  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

VILLAMOR,  
CUADERNO,

THIS fund campaign that we are launching today for the benefit of world refugees assumes added significance in the light of our own current struggles for economic progress.

I understand that for the upkeep, resettlement, and rehabilitation of roughly fifteen million refugees all over the world, the World Refugee Agency spends thirty-three and a half million dollars a year. In this light, the amount of one hundred thousand pesos, which the Philippines had pledged to contribute is a very small amount indeed. However, I want to say to the refugees who will be the recipients of our modest gift that this amount, small as it may seem by the enormity of their need, is given with the utmost compassion and sympathy for their plight and with the most sincere wish that they, like our own people, will see the way to better times.

It is in recognition of the plight of the refugees, that the Philippines, small as it is, having been laid prostrate by the last world war as it was, and being in the throes of a national economic struggle, is currently conducting this fund campaign to raise the modest amount of ₱100,000 to alleviate in a little way the poverty and the misery to which the refugees are heir and which the big bulk of our own people has known.

The end of the Second World War saw the rise of the world refugee problem. Originally, there were the millions upon millions of so-called displaced persons, most of whom came out of concentration camps. Others were the masses of war workers who were uprooted from their native countries to work in the war factories of the temporary victors in the early stages of the war, and who found themselves homeless, hungry, and without roots when the war ended. Others were simply fleeing from the rubble of their razed cities for a new place to call home. Still others were running away from the new despotism that was sweeping Eastern Europe even as the Free World was celebrating its victory over an old one. This last category, composed of political refugees, was to swell rather than diminish as the years went by. Its number was swelled by the political upheavals that swept the Near East, China, Vietnam, and Korea. It is estimated that in Hongkong alone, there are a million Chinese refugees from Communist China.

Help from the countries of the Free World to these refugees has come in various and multi-faceted forms but mostly in three general categories; namely, (1) by contributing financially to accredited agencies, (2) by taking refugees into the country, and (3) extending satisfactory legal status to refugees.

In the early years of our independence, our country helped in a small way by providing a temporary site in Guiuan, Samar, for several thousand European displaced persons under the care of the United Nations prior to their final resettlement in other countries.

Today our help will come in the form of goods that will be sent to the various refugee camps all over the world. For this purpose we are raising one hundred thousand pesos in a campaign that is being set off by this ceremony we are having here today.

We are giving help in kind and not in cash in order to deplete further our scant dollar reserves which we are using in the varied and competing needs of our own economic development. By giving in kind, therefore, we shall be helping others while at the same time not jeopardizing the welfare of our own people in the true Christian spirit that "Charity begins at home."

I appeal to all our people—the masses, the business groups, the employees, the government officials—to support this drive to a successful conclusion. By doing so, we shall not only have lived up to a pledge given as a free nation, but we shall have helped others less fortunate than we are.

I now declare the World Refugee Fund Drive in the Philippines officially open, and I now wish to hand my own personal contribution to your Chairman.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1960). President Garcia's speech at the kick-off ceremony of the World Refugee Fund Campaign held at Malacañang, Thursday afternoon, March 10, 1960. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 56(11), 2367-2368.

**Speech of President Garcia at the Dinner in Honor of the memory of the late Senator Jose P. Laurel**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the Dinner in Honor of the memory of the late Senator Jose P. Laurel**

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, March 14, 1960]

DISTINGUISHED  
LADIES  
MY FRIENDS:

AND

GUESTS,  
GENTLEMEN,

LET me greet you tonight in behalf of the memory of a great Filipino, a noble soul and exemplary patriot, comrade, colleague, and friend who left us with unexpected suddenness some four months ago today: Dr. JOSE P. LAUREL. The rich and eventful career of Dr. Laurel, spanning more than two generations, an entire, half century of which was dedicated to the most outstanding and fruitful public service, radiated such an inspiration and impact upon the life of our people and nation that I doubt if there is a fellow Filipino here tonight who had not at one time or another felt the powerful stir of that inspiration or the challenge of that impact.

I for one feel in all candor and humble gratitude that this is indeed a most appropriate occasion for me to say and to acknowledge, that from the days of my eager and idealistic youth as a student of law I drank deeply from the fountain of knowledge and wisdom in the famous works of Laurel on Constitutional Law. And down through the care-laden and eventful years of my humble political career I remained his admiring and loyal colleague and fought side by side with that illustrious champion in the nationalistic and libertarian struggles of the Nacionalista Party. I often thrilled in response to the patriotic advocacies or the bold moves of the devoted leader. I have experienced the impact of his sublime courage and of his ardent Filipinism and love of truth and righteousness.

The life and works of a great man of any nation ennoble the history and traditions of that nation; they enhance the dignity and good name of that nation. The Philippines is a young nation. We have much to build and to accomplish in the way of firmness of patriotic purpose, in the way of solidarity and oneness of concern over the national well-being, in the way of self-reliance and self-dependence, and, in the favorite phrase of his whom we are honoring tonight, in the capacity to "think for ourselves." It is, therefore, a soul-uplifting duty of ours to treasure and emulate, to cherish and to perpetuate the exemplary lives, deeds, and labors of our great men. One such, indubitably, amongst us, alas now gone, was Dr. JOSE P. LAUREL.

Tonight we are gathered not merely to render honor and fitting tribute to his memory, his life, labors, and sacrifices for the national welfare. We are also launching the establishment of a Memorial Foundation to be financed from contributions, donations, bequests of members of the Laurel Family, other relatives, associates, friends, and admirers, from public solicitation. I have the pleasure to take this occasion to announce here that I have given instructions to the Social Welfare Administration to give the necessary government permit for such public solicitation; in behalf of the Jose P. Laurel Memorial Foundation for a period of one year, lasting from today, March 9, 1960, to March 9, 1961. March 9, as you may all know, is the birthday anniversary of Dr. Laurel.

The Foundation, I understand, will implement certain projects, planned or started by Dr. Laurel before he died, which are all of considerable value and importance to our continuing task of nation-building, especially in the spheres of education, cultural regeneration, national unity, and economic and cultural development. Additionally, the Foundation proposes to establish a suitable Laurel Memorial Hall to house in a systematic manner his relics, works in the field of culture, and personal collections which he had accumulated during a long and busy life in the public service and in endeavors at education and law. This Hall would also serve as a proper and convenient place for public discussion of national and international problems and for cultural exhibits and presentations. I also understand, the Foundation intends to finance several scholarships in Philippine and other Asian universities in the various fields of endeavor to which Dr. Laurel, in life, dedicated himself.

These are all laudable projects. There are so few of such institutions in our young nation, that the Foundation's undertaking them today in honor of Dr. Laurel, not only would add to our country's institutions of this kind but also would provide an example worth emulating. Moreover, in readily and properly honoring outstanding Filipinos we would show the greatness of soul of the nation, that we are a grateful people; and we would enhance the incentive and inspiration for those of our nation who are still in their prime and make them feel that devoted and extraordinary services to the national good shall never among us as a people go unremembered, unhonored, and unsung.

As a fitting tribute to the great friend and exemplary patriot, permit me on this occasion to reminisce with you various facets of the extremely rich and titanic personality of Dr. Laurel. When I first knew him as a law student in the Philippine Law School, the impression he immediately gave was that of a very virile man, a man of strong convictions, and one of vast learning and prodigious memory.

Then, when he entered national politics he became a popular figure and gained a reputation almost overnight in our region of the Visayas, as a scholarly nationalist, and one who identified himself with the ideal of national discipline and "progressive conservatism." Somehow this was the most prevalent way of thinking among the middle and propertied classes of our country in the decades of the 1920's and early 1930's while the stirrings of social discontent were beginning to be felt in many areas of the world.

With the well-known Conley case in which Dr. Laurel played a central role, most of you are no doubt familiar. I may recall here that the bold act of dignity of Dr. Laurel in defying Governor-General Wood on the basis of the fundamental principle of departmental responsibility, electrified the entire Filipino nation, and we in the Visayas, in particular in Bohol, with our deathless memories of Dagohoy's historic defiance against Spanish tyranny, were thrilled to the depth by the performance of Dr. Laurel in the Conley case. We hailed him that early as a true hero of the national issue of independence.

I will now touch upon the usually controversial, albeit the really supreme soul-testing event in the crowded career of Dr. Laurel: His role during the Japanese occupation of our country in the last World War. The government of our Republic, through no less than the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines has set down in an imperishable record the sober official view on the occupation role of Dr. Laurel when he was awarded the Philippine Legion of Honor, degree of Chief Commander, last March 1959, and with the President of the Philippines himself pinning the decoration on him. But before I cite the official view, I would like to reminisce a little about the dramatic change of intelligence reports of the Visayas and Mindanao guerillas to General MacArthur's headquarters, about the role of President Laurel in Manila, a significant change that took place in August and September of 1944. I believe this is the best occasion to recollect a significant episode of our struggle for survival as a people.

I remember vividly—and I will speak frankly on this occasion that throughout 1942 and 1943, we in the Visayas and Mindanao, especially those who were already active in the underground and were continuing the resistance against the Japanese, felt sad and bitter over the assumption of responsibility, first in the Department of the Interior and later in the Presidency itself of Dr. Laurel. When the leader of our military intelligence service, however, now Congressman Cabangbang, who was then known among us and in the MacArthur Headquarters in Australia as "Cabrera" went to Luzon about August of 1944, after a long stay in Australia, he began reporting, that President Laurel should be viewed in a new and different light. Cabangbang emphatically assured that Laurel was not a Quisling, nor an opportunist who had just wanted to exercise power even at the expense his countrymen. Colonel Cabangbang reported for instance that President-Laurel had been instrumental in the speedy release of many prisoners of war that he personally interceded in behalf of many prominent Filipinos who otherwise would have been the victims of Japanese brutality, and that the Japanese threatened to shoot him if he did not declare war on the United States and conscripted Filipino manpower for the Japanese soldiery, but that President Laurel courageously stood his ground and refused to permit the conscription of Filipinos. From that time on, we came to regard President Laurel in a different light, and our admiration for his sagacity, patriotism, courage, and wisdom rose to new heights.

I should like to quote a part of the citation of the Armed Forces of the Philippines when it awarded, by order of the President of the Philippines as constitutionally the Commander-in-Chief of all defense forces, the Legion of Honor, Chief Commander, to Dr. Laurel in March 1959. Here is what the citation said: "During the darkest period of the history of our country, when the very existence and security of the Filipino people were at stake, it was Dr. Laurel who in a supreme Act of patriotism and sacrifice, dared accept the highest magistracy of the land, acting in

compliance with the late President Quezon's instructions to do whatever was necessary to cushion the impact of enemy invasion short; of taking an oath of allegiance. Thus, risking his life and those of his family and close associates and daring countless perils in order to mitigate the sufferings of the people and to reduce to a minimum the merciless rigors and exacting demands of a belligerent military occupation, he courageously and wisely guided the ship of state, and unflinchingly and vigorously objected to the insistent demands of the Japanese authorities that the Filipinos should take the path of allegiance to Japan. Immediately after the fall of Bataan, Dr. Laurel, as Minister of the Department of Interior, was instrumental in the release of thousands of Filipino prisoners of war who were concentrated in Capas, Tarlac, and elsewhere. And when men of weaker moral fiber would have been cowed under continuing pressure, Dr. Laurel courageously issued the declaration of state of war against the allies, short, however, of conscription, saving thus the lives of hundreds of thousands of his countrymen. Few men subjected to such pressures could offer the undaunted resistance he made. A true leader, caring only for the welfare and security of his people, Dr. Laurel at great personal risk, saved many prominent Filipinos. . .”

As a footnote to this citation may I place on record the testimony of former President Osmeña: That in the last meeting of Quezon's Cabinet held in Marikina, President Quezon announced that the Commonwealth Government was going to Corregidor; that Quezon ordered him to stay behind; that Laurel announced that if Manila fell to the enemy he was going to the mountains of Batangas in order not to submit to the enemy; that Quezon directed him that in the event Manila fell, he should not abandon the Filipino people but should lead them under the occupation government to national survival. This difficult task assigned to him by President Quezon he tried to his utmost to carry out and now History has set down the verdict: Well done, good and faithful servant of the people—Dr. Jose P. Laurel.

There, is no better summation, I believe, of what we as a nation owed Dr. Laurel during that particular period of our struggle for survival which we remember as the Japanese Occupation, there are many more occasions when Dr. Laurel, as jurist, or as a legislator, as an educator, or, as a constant student of our national problems, rendered invaluable guidance, inspiration, and other forms of distinguished service to our country and people.

Ladies and Gentlemen: I have the deep and abiding conviction that we honor ourselves, we enhance the dignity of our nation, we make our people worthy of the great destiny that is rightfully theirs, as we render our need of tribute to this great countryman of ours, who dies but four months ago, Dr. JOSE PACIANO LAUREL of Tanauan, Batangas. By his sublime patriotism, devotion to duty, selfless; tireless, and ceaseless work for the welfare and dignity of his country and people, his brilliant leadership particularly in times of grave crisis, his signal achievements, his wisdom and statesmanship, Dr. Laurel, has deservedly gained a place among the immortals of the race.

May this solemn tribute that we are rendering to his memory be the expression of a profound and lasting appreciation and gratitude that will remain eternally aglow hi determination to carry out successfully this move that you the sanctuary of our affections, constantly rekindling our have initiated.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1960). President Garcia's speech at the dinner held Wednesday evening at the Manila Hotel in honor of the memory of the late Senator Jose P. Laurel. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 56(11), 2362-2366.

**Speech of President Garcia before the First Joint National Convention of the League of Provincial and City Health Officers and the League of Hospital Chiefs at the Manila Hotel, May 23, 1960**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH BEFORE THE FIRST JOINT NATIONAL  
CONVENTION OF THE LEAGUE OF PROVINCIAL AND CITY  
HEALTH OFFICERS AND THE LEAGUE OF HOSPITAL CHIEFS  
AT THE MANILA HOTEL, 8 P.M., MAY 23, 1960**

IT IS a great pleasure to speak before you again on this occasion, and to the planners, organizers, and members of this convention go my hearty congratulations. This is the first joint national convention of provincial and city health officers and hospital chiefs to be held in this country. I am confident that this joint conference would not only foster stronger ties among you but also, pave the way towards more effective planning, programming, and implementation of health activities among public health and hospital entities.

Public health is a teamwork endeavor and is everybody's concern. You, public health leaders, are in the frontlines of our government's efforts to help our people attain and remain in a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being. It is gratifying to note that you are taking the time to make this annual conference possible and are determined to work towards positive accomplishments.

Let me review in passing the state of the nation's health. Our most reliable statistics reveal encouraging results. The Disease Intelligence Center, a newly-created agency in this department and which is a step towards up-dating and compiling reliable data, gives us this information: There is a considerable decrease, on one hand, in the crude death rate from 12.68 per thousand population ten years before to 9.44 to date. On the other hand, our crude birth rate per thousand population reveals a considerable increase from 30.4 ten years ago to 33.15 to date. There are encouraging signs of improvement in health conditions as shown by a decrease in mortality and morbidity rates in the leading causes of death which are mostly infectious and communicable diseases. This improvement, however, should be no reason for complacency. We must keep in mind that the trend of disease is gradually shifting in nature from communicable to the inevitable degenerative diseases of an aging population. These are cardio-vascular diseases and cancer, now ranking sixth and eighth, respectively, among the ten leading causes of death. We must then gear our national health programs towards meeting these problems.

Industrialization brings the concomitant health problems of occupational hazards and diseases. Allied to this is the increase in accidents, which now rank seventh in the ten leading causes of death.

Our rural health services have become the model for Southeast Asia, thanks to your untiring efforts, your devotion to your duty, and your spirit of sacrifice, although, I am afraid, not all the personnel possess these qualities. For this reason, our country has been chosen as a ground for foreign country training and as the site of the Western Pacific regional conference on rural health services of the World Health Organization in August this year.

The budget for health has been increased for the fiscal year 1960-61. This step is a tangible proof of my administration's desire to give all the financial aid possible to the elevation of our nation's health standards.

We have entered the atomic age and great advances in medicine are daily occurrences in all parts of the world. Atomic energy is being harnessed so that what was once a harmful and devastating potential can now be used for peaceful purposes; such as, the diagnosis and treatment of certain diseases. You must have read about the laying of the cornerstone of an atomic research center under the National Science Development Board. A nuclear reactor has been donated to us by the United States Atomic Energy Commission. With the establishment of this center, we will soon engage in the production of radio-isotopes for the use of medicine, among other things.

In my address before you last year, I emphasized the fact that between the two alternatives of adhering to centralization or shifting to decentralization, the Congress of the Philippines had decided to adapt the latter not only in the Department of Health but also in other departments and offices of the government. Reorganization laws were approved to implant this new concept. It is therefore incumbent upon us who belong to the Executive branch of the government to implement these laws in accordance with the new concept of governmental organization. The sooner



these are implemented, the faster we can readjust ourselves to the reality of things and the more effective our service will be to the people. The will of our people has been expressed through Congress and ours is to carry out that will as good disciplined public servants.

Let me express one last thought. Notwithstanding our impressive record of achievement in the public health and welfare to such an extent that the Philippines has become a model country in Asia, poor environmental sanitation is still a priority problem in almost all towns and cities in our country. We still have the unfortunate existence of unsanitary toilets, exposed garbage, unsafe water supply, slum areas, open esteros, dirty markets and surroundings, stray animals, and the like. Malnutrition is still a big problem and many of our people still have undesirable health practices. Our health and hospital facilities, supplies, and equipment are far from adequate to meet the growing needs and demands of the public.

Let this situation serve as the challenge to all public health leaders to spur them to new heights of achievements. The reward may not come in a materialistic form, but it must come from the satisfaction and pride that we have contributed to the building of a strong, healthy, resilient, progressive, and happy Filipino manhood—the best race in Asia.

Such is my dream, ladies and gentlemen, and I have faith that the personnel and leaders of public health and welfare, with their discipline, integrity and patriotism, will translate this dream into a beautiful reality.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**Speech of President Garcia at the inauguration of the PNB Branch Office in Tagbilaran, Bohol, May 29, 1960**  
**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE**  
**PNB BRANCH OFFICE IN TAGBILARAN, BOHOL, MAY 29, 1960**

I AM indeed happy to inaugurate this new home for the Bohol branch of the Philippine National Bank. I am privileged to be present at this significant occasion, which marks for the people of this capital, and of the province of Bohol, more than just the opening of a new edifice and the blessing of a new building. It marks the beginning of a fresh phase in the development of this region; an expansion of facilities and intensification of efforts to render financial services to the people of Bohol—to our businessmen, to our agriculturists, and to our industrialists, both large and small.

I am particularly gratified, because this event represents a translation into concrete reality of my administration's determination to meet the challenge of the times, and foster the economic and social advancement of all of our people, in whatever city and province of the Philippines.

As you are well aware, the paramount concern of the government during the past decade has been economic development. The struggle has been hard and the obstacles, forbidding, but we have progressed and progressed far. We have attained virtual self-sufficiency in important sectors, and economic abundance with higher living standards looms larger and larger in the horizon.

It was fortunate that shortly after independence, a flexible currency and banking system was adopted for the country. This, perhaps, was the main factor that gave us the capacity to raise our economic development to a bigger scale. The managed currency system made possible the expansion of credits and the money supply to meet the requirements of business, industrial, and agricultural growth. The expansion of the commercial banking system, the establishment of rural banks, and the development of other financial institutions for capital formation helped trigger and sustain the remarkable upsurge of production we have witnessed in the past ten years.

There is no other country in our part of the world whose Gross National Product and National Income have both gone up by more than 80 per cent. Our Gross National Product has risen from ₱6.136 billion in 1949 to ₱11.032 billion in 1959. Our National Income, following the trend, increased from ₱5.464 to ₱9.768 billion during the same period.

When we look at the performance of the three major sectors of the economy, we can get a clearer idea of the magnitude of our progress. Within the last decade, from 1949 to 1959, our agricultural output has doubled, mining output has almost tripled, while manufacturing has more than tripled. This is significant when we realize that during the same period our population has grown by just 23 per cent, versus a 96 per cent increase in agriculture, a 179 per cent expansion in mining, and a phenomenal 211 per cent upsurge in manufacturing.

This testifies to the success of the industrialization program to the end of achieving for us the balanced agro-industrial economy best suited to our capacities and our aspirations for economic independence. While the plenitude of our agricultural resources is a well-accepted fact, not so well-known, however, is the fact that we possess all the basic raw materials of modern industry, with the exception of high-grade coal.

As it is, new industries and business establishments are continually set up. More than 7,000 new enterprises were registered last year alone, compared to 4,300 set up during 1949. Thus, new capital investments last year came to ₱176 million, which was far greater than the ₱72 million recorded for 1949. We have also noticed a gratifying development in this regard. Filipinos are claiming an increasing share in the new capital investments, and were responsible for more than 80 per cent of the investments channeled into commerce and industry last year.

Of course, agriculture is expected to continue its vital role in the economy. It is still a major factor in earning and saving the foreign exchange vitally necessary to our development projects. Last year products of agricultural origin supplied about 85 per cent of the total value of our exports. Furthermore, our farms and natural resources have provided the country with many raw materials and essential commodities, particularly food which we formerly used

to import. While manufacturing is growing in importance as a result of industrialization, agriculture still gives us 37 per cent of our National Income, the largest share for any particular sector.

Hand in hand with the spectacular rise in the country's productivity and the expansion of our industrial and agricultural facilities, has come the emergence of a strengthened and broad-based financial system. The last ten years has witnessed an important development of financial institutions in the Philippines. Our commercial banks have increased from the original 12 in 1949 to 18 in 1959, and branches of these banks have been established in key trade centers in the provinces. To date, about 135 rural banks have been set up throughout the length and breadth of the archipelago, to serve the credit needs of the rural areas. The Philippine National Bank has expanded its capitalization and the number of its branches, one of which we are privileged to inaugurate here today. In consequence, total banking resources in the country have more than doubled, from ₱1, 016 billion in 1949 to ₱2.344 billion today. It is significant that more than 80 per cent of the total assets of commercial banks belong to purely domestic banks, and that the Philippine National Bank alone holds around 40 per cent of total banking resources.

Considering that other facilities for capital formation have come into being, like the GSIS, the SSS, the ACCFA, the various insurance companies, and mutual funds, we can justly claim that we have gone far in our task of building up a financial system capable of supporting still a larger scale in economic development.

The growing strength of the economy is apparent not only from the side of domestic production, but also from the point of view of our international position. Last year we enjoyed a ₱50.4 million surplus in our foreign trade, the first time since the war. Compared to 1949, our total foreign trade has gone up 25 per cent, from ₱1.6 billion to ₱2.1 billion. However, it is not worthy to point out that while our imports went down 13 per cent, our exports have expanded by no less than 115 per cent. Also, while we repaid \$84 million of our foreign obligations, we were able to add more than \$17 million to our international reserve.

The path to progress has not always been smooth, but fraught with periods of crisis which had to be met with positive measures if the development program has to continue on the upswing. Early last year, one such crisis came to head, with the excessive building up of inflationary pressures which called for determined and even drastic moves on the part of the government to cut down surplus demand, conserve the international reserve, and stabilize the public finances.

I am happy to say that your government acted with decision and with dispatch in the face of this danger to the economy. The long-term course of rapid economic and social development temporarily came down to a prudential speed in favor of a short-term effort at fiscal and monetary stabilization. The measures we took were not at all popular, either with businessmen or the consuming public, but they were definite necessary, particularly the curbs on credit and the 25 per cent foreign exchange margin. I can say with justifiable pride, that the stabilization program was fairly a success, as proven by the splendid records set by the economy during the past year, much to the discomfiture of the false prophets of doom. Indications definitely point to continued growth in overall production in 1960 as a result of positive measures to spur production outputs and expand productive facilities.

The encouraging state of Philippine economic affairs was the primary consideration that influenced my administration's decision to implement steps designed to bring the economy back to free enterprise through a gradual decontrol program. The import and exchange controls will be gradually lifted over a period not to exceed four years. At the end of that time, we hope to achieve the normal economic environment where business decisions will be freely determined by the market forces. Under the decontrol now being carried out, exporters stand to gain immediate benefits, since a portion of their export proceeds enjoy the higher free market rate of exchange. As a province whose principal products are sold abroad, this is of great significance to Bohol, and should undoubtedly contribute to the further progress of this region.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my wish to see the benefits of our economic development and progress being enjoyed by every segment of our people, in every part of the country, not just by the main trading centers and the traditionally prosperous regions. In my state-of-the-nation message to Congress last January I urged greater efforts at rural development, and the dispersal of industries to the provinces in order to diffuse the blessings of economic advancement among the rural regions. The new Philippine National Bank facilities in Tagbilaran which we

inaugurate today, I am confident, will prove a positive boost towards the continued development and modernization of the Eastern Visayan region, and therefore contribute to the overall economic uplift of our country. Boholanos, *sursum corda!*

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia before PACD Seminar at the Xavier University Auditorium, May 30, 1960**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH BEFORE PACD SEMINAR AT THE  
XAVIER UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM, MAY 30, 1960**

THE Community Development program continues to assume a major role in the overall economic and social development effort. Since its launching in 1956, this program has grown by leaps and bounds, a fact which clearly attests to our deep concern for the welfare of our barrio people. Starting with only 144 community development workers in 1956 covering a little more than 600 barrios in 22 provinces of the country, the PAGD now has 1,101 field workers covering 6,390 barrios in 55 provinces of the country.

Under this program, barrio people, acting through their barrio councils, have put up more than 20,000 vital self-help community development projects valued at no less than ₱25 million. To these projects barrio people contributed ₱14 million in cash, labor, and materials; the PACD, about ₱9.7 million; local governments, a little more than ₱1 million; and technical agencies of the national government, about ₱1.3 million. Of the total of more than 20,000 projects, 16,998 were projects contributing to increased production and income, such as irrigation systems and dams, communal oyster farms, plant pest control, copra dryers, nurseries, certified seeds, farmsteads, pasture lands, poultry and swine dispersal, and fruit trees dispersal; 550 were public facilities, such as footbridges, multi-purpose centers, pavements, barrio markets, and wharves; and 3,143 were health and sanitation projects, such as communal water supplies, toilets, and medical kits.

In addition, 570.63 kilometers of self-help barrio roads have been completed and another 772.96 kilometers are under construction. This brings the total to 1,343.6 kilometers of barrio roads valued at ₱8.7 million.

Some 4,000 of the community development projects I have mentioned, out of the total of 20,000, are in Mindanao. These have a total value of ₱4.3 million.

Of the total of 1,343.6 kilometers of barrio roads, 372.6 kilometers are in Mindanao, valued, at ₱2.28 million.

To the 1959 Congress, I urged the granting of more autonomy to local governments, especially to the barrio councils. I have always maintained the position that if local governments are to participate more actively in the development of our country, they should be given not only the responsibility for local affairs but also the corresponding authority. Especially with respect to the barrio council, I proposed that they be given limited powers of taxation to enable them to finance and carry out local development undertakings. Convinced of the wisdom of these proposals, the 1959 Congress enacted, among other local autonomy measures, Republic Act No. 2370, otherwise known as the Barrio Charter.

The Barrio Charter is a transcendental piece of legislation. In its vision and scope, it compares favorably with the best of similar legislation in other countries of the world which seeks to give local people the freedom to manage their own affairs with the least interference from the national, provincial, or municipal governments. The Barrio Charter is designed to strengthen democracy as an institution in the barrios.

Democratic self-government in our barrios, however, is relatively new in this country. Traditionally, a highly centralized form of government has operated in the Philippines. Viewed in this light, I had expected no little difficulty in the implementation of the Barrio Charter starting this year with the first barrio council elections under the new law.

However, according to latest reports, about 90 per cent of our more than 20,000 barrios have already organized their barrio councils in accordance with the law. This piece of news is indeed heartening, and a major portion of the credit

for the tremendous success achieved in the initial implementation of the Barrio Charter goes to the community development workers and public school teachers who, long before the elections held in January of this year, were engaged in a nationwide intensive effort to acquaint barrio people with the provisions of the law and to give them the necessary guidance on how to conduct the elections.

More than 50,000 barrio council officials have attended Lay Leadership Institutes launched by the PACD. These four-day institutes are designed to give barrio council officials practical training in the art of democratic self-government as well as in the techniques of community development. By the end of the current fiscal year, it is estimated that 153,000 barrio council officials shall have attended these institutes all over the country. Simultaneously, the PACD is giving training to barrio women and youth in the techniques of community development. I understand that more than 10,000 have taken this special training.

With a view to promoting better teamwork among representatives of government agencies engaged in community development, the PACD has been conducting orientation training schools at its Community Development Center in the College of Agriculture, University of the Philippines, in Los Baños, Laguna. Some 700 representatives from various technical agencies have taken these orientation classes. At the risk of being immodest, the Philippine Community Development Program is attracting worldwide attention. From 1956 up to the present, more than 700 people from 28 different countries have been sent to this country by the ICA, the United Nations, and other organizations, to study and observe our community development program.

While the physical achievements of the Community Development Program are impressive enough, its greatest and most enduring achievement lies in the fact that it is unleashing a "revolution of rising expectations" in the rural areas, in the fact that it is succeeding in bringing about a perceptible change in the attitudes of our people from one of dependence on government to self-reliance, and thus helping to create a rural citizenry that is alert, dynamic, responsive, and self-reliant.

This review of accomplishments in the field of community development would not be complete without mentioning the vital role the United States Government, through the ICA, has played in helping to finance the cost of operating the program.

The total amount of ₱32,962,997 was made available to implement this program during fiscal years 1958 to 1960. Of this amount, ₱14,087,362 was provided by our government and ₱18,875,635 by the United States Government.

Of the PACD's total budget of ₱13.8 million for fiscal year 1961, ₱ 3.8 million will be provided by our government, and ₱5 million by the United States Government.

In addition to the amounts it has made available to the community development program, the United States Government has also given substantial support in the form of such dollar commodities as motor vehicles, audio-visual tracks and equipment, bicycles, training supplies, and materials.

I wish to emphasize the fact that this assistance given by the United States Government has enabled the program to grow and to expand coverage as well as activities and thus bring the benefits of the program to a larger number of our barrio people than otherwise would have been possible without such assistance.

The community development program has sufficiently demonstrated one major fact: It is vital to the social and economic development of the country. For this reason, I intend to give it the vigorous and sustained support of my administration, and I shall make every effort to make sure that the necessary funds are made available to it so that it could continue to expand.

We are all together in this great undertaking and nothing less than our best is needed if this program is to continue to succeed. A distinct feature of the community development program is that it is a massive, concerted, and coordinated effort to attack the problem of rural poverty in all its aspects. Necessarily, this program involves a wide variety of experts; it involves the efforts of some 20 or so government technical agencies engaged in rural development, as well as local governments and our barrio people. Viewed as such, there is need for effective

teamwork among all who are concerned. Certainly, we cannot afford the luxury of allowing, certain agencies of the government to move slowly or to drag their feet. Everybody must move together towards the common objectives—and move towards it as fast as possible. Our people are impatient for change. We have opened their eyes to the vista of a richer and fuller life. Our people cannot wait any longer, and we owe it to them to give to what we are doing nothing less than our best. It was with this simple and clear thought that I saw the wisdom of inviting you to this seminar.

It is my fond hope that this seminar has proved fruitful in the way of bringing about a crystallization of common problems, of finding concrete and practical solutions to these problems, and of infusing you all with a fresh resolve to work together as a team when you go back to your respective provinces.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**Speech of President Garcia before a symposium on Communism, June 2, 1960**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
Before a symposium on Communism**

[Delivered at the Session Hall of the House of Representatives on June 2, 1960]

I am deeply gratified to note that there are many far-sighted and dedicated men in the community, such as you of the Philippine Anti-Communist Movement, who have involved themselves zealously in the struggle against the forces of tyranny. This symposium you sponsored once more focuses the nation's attention on one of the most vexing of our contemporary problems—the fight against Communism. The preservation of our way of life depends on how well we all accept ourselves in this crucial struggle.

I am further gratified by the organization of an anti-Communist movement in Asia, in which you perform a role. This joint Asian Anti-Communist effort is an answer to the shift of Communist expansionist attention to this area by exploiting the Asian aspirations for freedom, dignity, and national identity.

Communist encroachments in Asian countries assume frightening proportions when taken in context with the overall Red drive now feverishly in progress in all parts of the world. The collapse of the recent Summit talks was but one of the preconceived designs in the overall Soviet blueprint to divide the free world. As indicated by latest world developments, the Communist block will continue to make the most out of the Summit fiasco to keep the Western powers off-balance and the small nations confused.

The situation evidently demands an equally massive defense on the part of the free world; it demands for this region the forging to maximum strength of the political, economic, and sociological bonds of international cooperation. Our efforts must find a base of strength, which lies in no less than a common purpose and a collective effort of all Asian peoples. There is hardly any alternative to this, for to survive this ideological conflict we must ardently safeguard the growth of our nationhood within the framework of cooperation and trust among like-minded nations. The effectivity of the defense of free nations must be derived mainly from their united strength. It behooves, therefore, the free peoples of Asia to contribute fully to this end.

It would like at this point to call attention to the inspiring example of Nationalist China, our steadfast ally in the North, which I had the good fortune to visit last month. Perhaps no nations in the world has undergone anything comparable to the travails and vicissitudes of China in her search for unity, peace, and freedom; yet the most impressive reality which struck me during my visit to that country is the overwhelming passion of the Chinese people on Taiwan, under President Chiang Kai-shek's masterful leadership, to restore the regime of freedom and democracy on the Chinese mainland. Every effort and every activity on the part of the Nationalist Chinese government and her people has been geared to attain that one grand objective.

The stirring example of Nationalist China is indeed a source of inspiration to fighters against Communism everywhere.

For our part, we must not allow ourselves, in our search for the well-being and happiness of our people, to be distracted by Communist efforts at subdivision and conspiracy to threaten our national security. Our country must not relax its campaign against local or international Communism.

The record of the Administration in the Anti-Communist struggle humbly speaks for itself. I need not burden you with an account of achievements on this matter. I must, however, reaffirm that in both our domestic and foreign policies—as indicated by the intensified anti-subversion campaign and the strengthening of our alliances with Asian and Western countries through the SEATO and bilateral partnerships—our democratic orientation has ever remained stoutly unyielding. We have formulated and implemented on our own initiative and with the cooperation of friendly



countries, measures for our security from internal and external threats; we have tapped our intellectual, physical, and moral resources, as befitting an independent and sovereign nation, towards creating an atmosphere of peace and normalcy which our people now enjoy.

Needless to say, the strongest argument against the Communist movement lies in the vigor and wholesomeness of the democratic way of life. So long as general contentment and prosperity prevail in the land, the success of any subversion effort remains remote. It is consequently a major objective of the present Administration of our country. In this connection it should be understood that the requirements of Philippine progress demand emancipation of our national economy. This is a simple, incontrovertible aspiration of our people or any people for that matter. We have therefore made nationalism the starting point of our approach to our country's problems, because it is a basic political verity that a nation cannot progress without nationalism and unity.

We have to forge unity at the roots because we need a firm national foundation on which may grow in stature and respectability the edifice of our friendship with other countries. Such is our motive in adopting nationalism as a fundamental policy of my administration.

That the local Communist activity has ridden on the crest of our nationalist movement does not nullify the wisdom of our policy. The Communist organization has merely recognized the expediency of nationalism as a handy propaganda line. In reality, the so-called "internationalism" preached by the Reds is a purely opportunistic undertaking, a deceitful facade designed to undermine the very foundations of our national stability. A careful scrutiny of a recently captured Communist document reveals their real objectives. This document overworks the same old line of bitterly assailing the actions of "imperialists" as represented by the United States and other Western powers, while highly extolling the "progressivism" of the Soviet Union. This document further shows that while the Communists in the country profess "nationalism," they actually aim not to reform but to disturb and topple over the existing order.

My friends, the task you of the Philippine Anti-Communist Movement have voluntarily and selflessly assumed, is not easy. As anti-Communist crusaders, you will often be beset by a terrifying sense of loneliness in a wide sea of public complacency and skepticism. More often than not your motives will be distorted to suit cynical purposes; and your activities may be misunderstood by the very people whom you seek to defend.

In the face of these odds, you have to steadfastly forge ahead, unmindful of criticism and other temporary deterrents. A weakening on your part might serve as the long-awaited signal for the sinister forces of totalitarianism to close for the kill.

The country needs you as a motive force. Fired by your determination and enthusiasm, and your government serving as a rallying point, the Filipino people will imbibe the strength and indomitable spirit which have always sustained them in times of stress and danger. For the sake of our children, our whole nation, in concert with the other free nations of the world, must unite in fighting this atheistic ideology.

It is my earnest hope that this symposium would help remove the doubts of our people regarding the stark reality of the Communist threat that imperils our very existence today, and rekindle in their breast the militant spirit that bound us together and saved us in our days of adversity in the past. The inherent strength of the Filipino people, which has sustained them in their darkest hour, is perhaps best described by General Douglas MacArthur, who, in reply to an intelligence report I transmitted to him from Bohol in May 1943 stated . . . "It is cause for immense personal satisfaction for me to observe the indomitable spirit manifested by so many of her people that is guiding the Philippines through her present tragic hour that this spirit of unswerving devotion to the principles of human liberty, in defense of which our service is jointly dedicated, is responsive in no small degree to exemplary leadership and inspiring example at a time never more needed than now.

It is the same indomitable spirit to which MacArthur referred that we need at the moment. It is the same leadership and example that you of the Philippine Anti-Communist Movement should provide to carry us over victoriously in our fight against Communism. Devoted as you are in the task before you, and God willing, I know that you cannot and must not fail.

I thank you.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia at the launching of the 1960 Fund Drive of the Community Chest of Greater Manila, June 2**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH AT THE LAUNCHING OF THE 1960 FUND DRIVE OF THE COMMUNITY CHEST OF GREATER MANILA, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 2, AT THE MALACAÑANG SOCIAL HALL**

THE launching of the fund drive of the Community Chest of Greater Manila and the eighteen Red Feather agencies affiliated to it is always an occasion that I happily look forward to every year.

The Community Chest concept for raising funds for the support of its many and varied affiliated agencies has proven successful in our country in giving life and impetus to a massive charity effort reaching thousands upon thousands of beneficiaries.

“Give once and serve eighteen times” could indeed be the motto of the Community Chest, for the donor’s peso serves all eighteen Red Feather agencies.

Less than a week ago, the metropolitan area of Greater Manila was the scene of destruction and loss of human life unparalleled within memory of man.

It is true that a big number of the victims were “squatters” who settled on the unsafe banks of creeks and rivers against existing laws, but it is no less true that charity must be extended the victims to help them “to get back on their feet.”

The government is pledged to the immediate relief of the victims of the disaster and also to the eventual relocation of the squatters families to relatively safer areas. To achieve this end, I have mobilized all government agencies, and I have instructed the officials concerned to effect the relocation program. I have authorized the use of not less than ₱2 million for such relocation program, it being the determination of the Administration to face squarely the squatters’ problem and other germane problems in Greater Manila.

In the meantime, the disaster will increase greatly the number of the orphans and the infirm, the helpless and the maimed. The relief work currently being undertaken by the government and private charitable entities and individuals have to do with the immediate needs of clothing, food, and shelter.

The more long-range work of rehabilitating the infirm, the maimed, and the orphans will have to be absorbed by specialized agencies like those that form the eighteen Red Feather agencies affiliated to the Community Chest.

The number of these helpless men, women, and children will swell the usual number of charity cases handled by the Red Feather agencies.

For this reason, I wish to make a special appeal this year—to government agencies, provincial and municipal officials, business and commercial firms, employees and other citizens, and all Philippine residents regardless of nationality—to give as much, if not more than, what they gave the Community Chest last year.

Our people’s effectiveness to rally to help those in distress has been demonstrated time and again. I am certain that they will not fail to rally again anytime sickness, misery, distress, or disaster calls for it.

I wish to reiterate my call to all quarters to support this year’s Community Chest fund drive.

I now declare the 1960 Fund Drive of the Community Chest of Greater Manila officially open, and I hereby hand my personal contribution to the fund to your chairman.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**Speech of President Garcia before the American Veterans Legion (Philippine Department), at Olongapo, Zambales, June 4, 1960**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH BEFORE THE AMERICAN VETERANS LEGION (PHILIPPINE DEPARTMENT), AT OLONGAPO, ZAMBALES, JUNE 4, 1960**

AMBASSADOR HICKERSON, ADMIRAL CARSON,  
ADMIRAL SPRING, FRIENDS OF THE CONVENTION:

MRS. GARCIA and I are indeed very happy and grateful to be with you on this auspicious occasion of the Convention of the American Veterans Legion. The situs of this convention right here in Subic Naval Base is a happy choice taking into account the fact that this place has also become a veritable base of a working Fil-American mutual understanding and cooperation in a people-to-people relationship. It is to the lasting credit of the American people represented here by such men as Ambassador Hickerson, Admiral Carson, and on this base by Admiral Spring and the men of his command that there exists here a people-to-people harmony and understanding transcending the bounds of mere diplomatic relationship. It is something of the heart and therefore warm and uplifting. It is a cause for satisfaction for both Americans and Filipinos.

The efforts being exerted by Admiral Spring to bringing Philippine-American relationship to the practical field of deeds and performance are of far-reaching effect and significance not merely in Subic but also all over the country. I dare say all Asia will take note of it. The success of his experiment in public relations here indeed shows that the seeds of goodwill and human understanding and democratic approach sown in the hearts of men bear more abundant fruits than the best of treaties, agreements, and covenants.

We have, for instance, three written agreements that link militarily our country with the United States. Much has been said, either doubting or confirming, about the sincerity of the United States in fulfilling her commitments in these treaties to the Philippines. To my mind, there can be no better words of reassurance regarding the goodwill and sincerity that motivated the United States in binding herself with the Philippines in mutual defense and assistance than those of President Eisenhower, who said in his last inaugural address, and I quote:

“... We hold it to be the first task of statesmanship to develop the strength that will deter the forces of aggression and promote the conditions of peace. For, as it must be the supreme purpose of all free men, so it must be the dedication of their leaders, to save humanity from preying upon itself.

“In the light of this principle, we stand ready to engage with any and all others in joint effort to remove the causes of mutual fear and distrust among nations.”

Moreover, during my last state visit to the United States, it has been made abundantly clear the sincere desire of the American government and people to help us set up here an adequate national defense and also the determination of the United States to help us repel instantly any aggression against our country. This is categorically reflected in the Joint Communiqué signed by President Eisenhower and myself on that momentous occasion which among other things reads as follows:

“They reviewed, in this connection, the important role played by the Mutual Defense Pact between the Philippines and the United States. They agreed that the aggressive intentions and activities of Communism in the Far East and in Southeast Asia render the maintenance and strengthening of these defensive arrangements an absolute necessity. President Eisenhower made clear that, in accordance with these existing alliances and the deployments and dispositions thereunder, any armed attack against the Philippines would involve an attack against the United States forces stationed there and against the United States and would instantly be repelled.”

The preceding paragraph, at least as far as the present administration in the United States is concerned, makes automatic and immediate American action to come to our assistance in the hour of aggression. Personally, I have no doubt but that this interpretation of our mutual defense pact to which President Eisenhower himself has solemnly

committed will be adopted by all American administrations as long as the mutual defense pact and our bases pact between the Philippines and the United States are standing.

Ambassador Hickerson, Admiral Carson, and Admiral Spring and his command, as I have said, are typical examples of men whose attitude and behavior inspire the confidence and faith in the nation they represent and in the treaties and commitments they help to implement.

The American Legion, Philippine Department, composed as it is of Filipinos, and Americans whose bonds of comradeship were forged in the crucible of war, constitute a strong link in Philippine-American relations. They who had absolute faith in each other in the midst of perils in battle continue to have faith in each other in the struggle to win enduring peace. This is the kind of faith that transcends geographical and political boundaries. Thus united in spirit, and thus backed up by the entire power and influence of the great American Legion in the United States, you have been partly instrumental in shaping the generous attitude of America towards the Philippines translated in terms of veterans benefits, pensions, gratuities; in assistance to the realization of our gigantic reconstruction and rehabilitation program which we completed in ten years following the war; in war damage compensation which is being augmented by \$73 million by the American Congress now; and in many other invisible and intangible but nonetheless effective ways. This American Legion with the backing of their comrades in the United States will, I am sure, continue relentlessly to fight for the equalization of benefits to veterans who served under the American flag regardless of their nationality.

And what is even more important to our people in the context of recent world events is that the American Legion exert its influence for the early modernization of the Philippine Armed Forces through the Military Assistance and Mutual Defense Pact. Let it not be said that the lessons of Corregidor and Bataan were in vain.

My friends, your convention assumes added significance in the light of recent world developments which have ushered in another period of uncertainty and apprehension. The summit conference of the leaders of the big powers was foredoomed to failure even before it started. The failure of that projected meeting, which was designed to be another splendid means to ease the tension generated by the cold war, has brought with it a fresh challenge to all free nations, big and small. The challenge is for all of us to strive with increased vigor and greater enthusiasm to keep the peace of the world.

Those in the ranks of the veterans bear a greater degree of responsibility for the success of this crusade for world peace. Because we have tasted the ordeals and sufferings of war, we should be more disposed to undergo personal sacrifices for the sake of peace. Our passion for peace should be as intense as our abhorrence of war. Our aggressiveness for peace should match our gallantry in war. Our will to win, in peace as in war, is inalterable.

For our part in the Philippines, I would like to reiterate my oft-repeated assurances that a greater part of our efforts would be expended towards helping ensure a more certain and lasting peace for all mankind. As a member of the United Nations, we are pledged to support any just, reasonable, and honorable move to promote the ends of peace. For this reason, we hail the decision of both the United States and Russia to try and settle their disputes in the United Nations Assembly or in the United Nations Security Council. We rely on the efficacy of the United Nations as an instrument of world peace; we believe in the potency of SEATO as an instrument of security and progress in this part of the globe". And in these two instruments of peace, security, and progress, we have faith in the leadership of the United States and in her sincerity as a true friend and ally.

This naturally brings us up again to the issue of the wisdom of maintaining United States military bases here. In this connection, I would like to take advantage of this occasion to remind all and sundry that during the debates in our Senate of which I was then a humble member on the ratification of these agreements, it was adverted that on one hand these bases might serve to draw to Philippine soil attacks of American enemies. But on the other hand, these American bases serve as effective deterrents to powers who may have aggressive intentions against us. Between these two alternatives the Philippine Senate unanimously ratified the treaties. We sought the revision of these treaties to update them, and with the exception "of a few vital items we have been given what we wanted; such as, the return to us of the title of ownership to the base lands, the return to us of inactive bases, the shortening of the life of the lease from 99 years to 25 years with bilateral administration of the bases, etc.

But as to the essentiality of maintaining these bases under present circumstances, my administration has gone on record for it. As stated in the joint communiqué between President Eisenhower and myself last June, 1958, we agreed “that the aggressive intentions and activities of Communism in the Far East and in Southeast Asia render the maintenance and strengthening of these defensive arrangements an *absolute necessity*.”

My friends, thank you again for your kindness in giving me this opportunity to visit this Base and to share some of my earnest thoughts with you. I trust that, as it had been in the battlefields of the last war, we shall continue to work hand-in-hand towards the realization of our common goals of permanent peace and prosperity for both our peoples and for all mankind. I wish you all a most pleasant and fruitful convention.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**Speech of President Garcia at the Inaugural Rites of Ateneo University, June 19, 1960 Speech  
of**

**His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the Inaugural Rites of Ateneo University**

[Released on June 19, 1960]

I am happy to be able to participate in these solemn ceremonies in connection with the formal inauguration of this new university, the latest one to be added to the expanding honor roll of universities in this country. I wish to take this opportunity to extend my warmest congratulations to the Reverend Rector and the members of the faculty of this institution for this auspicious change of status. This occasion augurs well for the continued growth and progress of this institution which has done so much to advance the cause of education in this part of the world.

It is significant that the elevation of this institution from a college to a university took place upon the completion of the first centenary of its foundation. Starting in 1859 as the Ateneo Municipal de Manila, with an enrollment of 33 students, the school has grown to its present stature as one of our leading institutions of learning. This event, therefore, is a happy culmination of its long and meritorious service to the Filipino people and youth.

It is highly significant also that the inauguration of this new university has been made to coincide with the birthday of the greatest alumnus this institution, has ever produced— our foremost national hero and martyr, Jose Rizal. It is well to bear in mind that it was within the halls of this venerable institution, under the inspired tutorship of understanding and scholarly professors, that the early years of Rizal's youth were spent. It was here that he went through the rigid discipline that characterizes the schools run by the members of the Society of Jesus. And it was here that his latent powers were awakened and developed to full flowering, to be used later on in the service of his country and its people. And so, as we inaugurate this new university, let us not forget the greatest Ateneo scholar who ever passed through the portals of this institution. Let us ever be inspired by his life and labors which he so unselfishly dedicated to the welfare of his beloved Motherland.

When we speak of the origin of the university as we know it today, our minds inevitably hark back to those centers of learning which came into being during the Middle Ages. It was then that the universities of Salerno, Bologna, and Paris were established on the European continent, and Oxford and Cambridge in England. To these centers flocked the eager youth of the civilized world of the period in order to sit at the feet of the masters and be inspired by their profound learning in the realms of law, medicine, and theology.

Succeeding years saw the rise of other universities, notably Salamanca in Spain, Louvain in Belgium, and Leipzig and Heidelberg in Germany. These institutions have won fame and popularity among the student population of mediaeval Europe and have drawn to them many of the great and renowned leaders who have helped shape the destinies of their respective countries.

In conformity with the traditional concept of the university as a community of masters and mature scholars, the European universities required their students to be holders of the baccalaureate degree before they could be admitted. In other words, the student must first secure in the secondary schools a broad and solid foundation of culture before he could enter the university, which was the place for his professional preparation or his advanced studies. As may be expected, this was the practice followed in the Philippines during the Spanish regime. The courses in our secondary schools, which were known as colleges at that time, were liberal arts courses, which derived their inspiration and content from the *ratio studiorum* of the monastic schools. Not until the student had completed these courses and received the bachelor of arts degree did he become eligible for entrance into the pontifical university.

But with the change of sovereignty over the Philippines following "Admiral Dewey's epochal victory in Manila Bay in 1898, there naturally came a change in the theory and practice of higher education in this country. The early colleges of the United States, like Harvard, Yale, and King's College, were patterned after those of England. Even



after their elevation to the status of universities, they still retained the main characteristics of their European counterparts. These schools were established during the frontier days of the American nation. But at the time that America came to our country, her frontier life had practically disappeared. America was then at the height of her industrial development. Economically, she was going through a period of technological progress, large-scale production, and rapidly expanding market for her products. It was a period of giant industries, of newly born professions, of recently discovered knowledge.

All of these dramatic changes in American life had a tremendous effect on higher education in that country. Mass production and the methods of the factory brought about a multiplicity of course offerings. Because of the vast amount of knowledge that had accumulated, it was no longer possible for anyone to know what there was to be known. Consequently, students had to confine themselves to a narrow field in order to attain some degree of mastery. And so knowledge was compartmentalized. To cite just one example, natural philosophy, was broken up into physics, chemistry, botany, zoology, and so on. Then, too, with the value placed on material welfare, functionalism came to dominate educational thinking. Short courses were worked out in order to enable young people to earn as soon as possible. In short, specialism in education became the order of the day.

Such was the situation in the United States when she took over the administration of our country at the turn of the century. And just as our educational practices during the Spanish regime were influenced by those prevailing in Spain, so were our practices under the new regime influenced by those prevailing in the United States at the time of the occupation.

But it was not the American influence alone that was responsible for the dominance of specialization in our schools. The conditions obtaining in our country at the beginning of the American administration also favored early specialization. There was a dearth of people who could attend to the various services of which our country was sorely in need. There were only a few physicians, and so epidemics of cholera, smallpox, and dysentery were of frequent occurrence. There were not enough lawyers to assist in the administration of justice and to man the offices of the government whose functions required an adequate knowledge of law and administration. Engineers were in demand who could design and construct buildings and bridges. Teachers were needed for the thousands of schools which had to be opened to lay down the foundations of a Philippine democracy. Under the circumstances, workers had to be trained in the shortest time possible. Consequently, early specialization became the vogue. Young people took up the study of law, engineering, dentistry, teaching, and even medicine without an adequate background in the humanities, mathematics and science, and the social studies. The result was the production of fairly efficient professionals but not quite adequately prepared citizens of our democracy. There were exceptions, to be sure, but they were the exceptions that proved the rule.

However, conditions have changed for the better. Sanitation in most communities has improved considerably and the supply of physicians and nurses has greatly increased and is continually increasing. In the case of law, there is a general impression that the point of saturation has been reached. The teaching profession is overcrowded. Consequently, the need for early specialization is no longer acute. Furthermore, both in this country and in the United States the feeling is gaining ground that too early specialization is detrimental both to the individual concerned and to society. The conviction is growing that one must not be merely an efficient professional; he must first of all be a well-balanced citizen who, in the words of the Harvard Report, can think effectively, can communicate thought, can make relevant judgments, and can discriminate among values. And so the movement for general education stressing the symmetrical development of man's faculties which has gained headway in the United States, is likewise finding considerable support among our Filipino, educators today.

At this juncture, it may be proper to ask: what is the function of a university? Abraham Flexner, an American educator and an Oxford lecturer, writing on the characteristics of American, English, and German universities, defined this function as the conservation of knowledge and ideas, the training of men, and the advancement of knowledge. This view is not unlike that expressed by the late Spanish philosopher, Jose Ortega y Gasset, who stated that the mission of the university is three-fold; namely, the transmission of culture, the teaching of the professions and scientific investigations, and the education of new men of science.

I shall not dwell at length on the first two functions because they can be grouped together under the category of teaching. Suffice it to say that as of today our universities in this country are devoting practically all of their time,

energy, and resources to teaching; that is, the dissemination of culture and the training of young people for the professions. Even our state university, as may be gleaned from its charter, limits its activities almost entirely to teaching; that is, general education and professional and technical training.

However, it is my considered view that a university should not be merely a teaching institution and nothing more. For it is also expected by the requirements of tradition to be able to seek new facts and truths and thus help push forward and outward the frontiers of knowledge. As Flexner has put it, the pursuit of science and scholarship belongs to the university. Therefore, the scientists in the universities must lift the veil that hides the secrets of Nature so that she can be made to serve human purposes and needs. That is what the French professor of chemistry, Louis Pasteur, did. By dint of patient research, he succeeded in finding a scientific explanation of fermentation. He also established the germ theory of disease, which revolutionized the practice of medicine and surgery. In the same way, Enrico Fermi, the great physicist from the University of Chicago, succeeded in splitting the atom, the fission resulting in the release of atomic energy which may have peacetime uses in medicine, agriculture, and industry. And so did the many other scientists who, working in the quiet and seclusion of their laboratories, were continually adding to the rapidly accumulating fund of human knowledge.

I am firmly convinced that the time has come for our universities in the Philippines to devote greater attention to scientific research. They must no longer be satisfied with mere teaching, for no country in the world today is in greater need of scientific studies and investigations than ours. Whether it be in the government, business, agriculture, industry, or medicine, we need the help of the scientists in our universities. In my inaugural address two and a half years ago, I made reference to the need for research as an essential aspect of the economic development program of my administration. I have reiterated this reference in my messages to Congress on the state of the nation. I did this advisedly in order to stress the importance that I attach to scientific research as a means of accelerating our economic, social, and cultural progress. Our higher institutions, and particularly the universities, must address themselves to the solution of the many problems that beset our people, among them the attainment of self-sufficiency in food, clothing, and shelter for a rapidly growing population; the improvement of our economy; and the eradication of the many diseases that decimate or at least sap the vitality of our people. The universities can find no better way of rendering public service than to utilize their resources in the attempt to solve these problems through careful and painstaking research.

What I have just said refers to applied research. However, it must not be implied that I am indifferent to basic research. I wish to state positively that I am a believer in basic research. We must have basic research because we should not depend upon other countries for the basic principles we need in our search for practical solutions to our problems. Otherwise, our progress will be retarded. On this point, I feel that, in the main, the basic research in our country should be done in our universities, leaving the practical problems to the research agencies of the government and industrial establishments.

But in order to avoid unnecessary duplication and useless dissipation of effort, some coordination is advisable and even necessary. For this purpose, we have the National Science Development Board, created by Republic Act No. 2067, otherwise known as the Science Act of 1958, and charged with the task of integrating, coordinating, and intensifying scientific and technological research in this country. I urge our universities to take full advantage of the possible assistance that this body can extend to the institutions that are seriously contemplating research projects either by their faculty members or their graduate students.

To conclude, higher education in this country has been continually in a state of flux. This is as it should be, for, being social institutions, our colleges and universities must respond to the changes that are taking place in our dynamic social order. In this age of unprecedented progress in science, it behooves our people to apply the methods of scientific research to the solution of our problems. However, let us not delude ourselves into thinking that the hope of the world today lies in science. It does not, and, in fact, scientific progress also carries with it the seeds of the world's destruction. Therefore, if our civilization is to be saved, the people of the world must move forward, *pari passu*, in their appreciation of human dignity and worth, and in deeper appreciation of moral and spiritual values manifested in actual life as well as in the acceptance of the concept of world brotherhood consecrated by the Divine Teacher himself, in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. To the attainment of this lofty goal, let our higher institutions of learning here contribute their genius and their best efforts.

The first century of the Ateneo as a college has been a devoted service to the greater glory of God and true happiness of man. Let the next century of the Ateneo as Loyola University be a glorious chapter in the Grand Saga of the Crusade for world peace, universal freedom, universal prosperity, and universal brotherhood.

God bless the Loyola University.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**Speech of President Garcia at the Charter Presentation of the Rotary Club of Quezon City**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the Charter Presentation of the Rotary Club of Quezon City**

[Delivered at the D & E Restaurant, Quezon City, June 20, 1960]

PRESIDENT  
LADIES  
FELLOW ROTARIANS:

AND

GENTLEMEN,

CEFERINO,  
AND

MANY honors have been bestowed upon me, but one that I shall always cherish and remember is the honor of being made an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Quezon City. It is honor enough to be made a member of any Rotary Club, but I consider it an exceptional privilege to be counted among the Rotarians of Quezon City. For, as I have said once before, Quezon City is my second hometown—here I have built a home, the only home I and my family have known other than the old paternal home in Bohol. Here I hope “to retire—for like the great President Quezon, who conceived and launched the building of this city, I believe that it will not be long before our city will be the center of government, of arts, of culture.

I am sure my Rotary Ann—whom I would like you to call Inday—share the same thoughts and feelings with me. That is why she is devoting so much time and effort to the development of a man-made forest and flowerland. (I realize that as a fellow Rotarian I can now be fined for commercials—but I shall offer to pay a good fine for this park and flowerland project provided that the fine I shall willingly pay will bring the fullest and most wholehearted support of every Rotarian of Quezon City for this worthwhile project.)

Tonight marks my second public appearance since the state visit of President Eisenhower. I believe you will agree with me that the trip and the heartwarming and spontaneous demonstration of our people will do more than anything to dispel the clouds of doubt and misunderstanding that sometimes darkened our horizons of friendship.

When I visited the United States about two years ago, I saw how the Filipino people were held in high esteem by the American people. I knew then after the warm and inspiring receptions given me that our country and our people had a special place in the heart of most Americans. But there were those who doubted whether the Filipino people held the Americans and the “United States in the same high esteem as we did before the war and shortly after liberation. As a matter of fact, some of our people have taken potshots at the United States for taking our country for granted. The result was that many Americans have become suspicious about the Philippines.

The spontaneous and unprecedented receptions accorded President. Eisenhower should dispel all doubts among the American people as to our people’s friendship to America:

It is now up to us as a nation and as individuals to follow up and follow through this new advantage—the fresh atmosphere generated by the Eisenhower visit. On the part of the government, I want to assure that every step is being taken to pursue the course outlined in the joint communique issued by President Eisenhower and myself.

In simple terms the communique means that:

First, in the programming of American military assistance, the Philippines will now have an equal say. Heretofore, this function was exercised exclusively by JUSMAQ.

Second, we can expect early and prompt delivery of arms and weapons from the United States, including conventional missiles used essentially for defense purposes.

Third, President Eisenhower's endorsement of more emphasis on the economic provisions of SEATO may be considered a recognition of Philippine efforts in that direction.

Fourth, we are now assured of more economic assistance from the United States.

While in the government sector the ground has been paved for improved relations between the United States and the Philippines, it is just as important that some action should be taken in the private sector. The program of Rotary fits perfectly into this picture. I noted that the fourth point in your Rotary program reads: "The advancement of international understanding, good will, and peace through a world of fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal of service."

In your Rotary Quezoniana, it is also pointed out that "Rotary differs from other organizations in that the establishment of a Rotary Club links its community to a world-encircling chain of cities and towns where other men have organized Rotary Clubs to give expression to their desire to serve. Their affiliation with other Rotary Clubs as an international organization, their balanced programs and activities, their financial solvency, and their unique basis of membership, give Rotary Clubs permanence and stability."

In the light of our present day problems and realizing the scope of Rotary which spans 114 countries, this new Rotary Club of Quezon City faces a challenge. I am not familiar with the mechanics of Rotary—after all it was only tonight that I was made one of you—but certainly there must be a way of harnessing our club and all the good will behind it to help the cause of national welfare. I leave it to you and your able officers to find the way.

It would be a wonderful thing to see the Rotary Club of Quezon City lead in something different, in something international. After all Quezon City is by law the capital of the Philippines. By operation of law and by the natural expansion of population, this city will in a few years perhaps eclipse Manila as a cultural, arts, and international center.

That is why I consider the organization of civic clubs like the Rotary in this city significant and important.

Even in the local scene, the private sector must play a leading role in the development of a community, in the stabilization of social factors, in the upbuilding of the economy. The government can only do so much and no more. The rest must be done by private enterprise through private initiative, with private resources. And this is where Rotary and Rotarians come in.

In some communities I have seen Rotary Clubs take the lead in many fields of endeavor. I am confident that with your distinguished membership and under your present vigorous leadership, the Rotary Club of Quezon City—our club—will be able to point to concrete and specific achievements in the future.

Rotary has many admirable features which may be exploited to the benefit of our community, especially during these times of much misunderstanding. Your membership comes from all races and all creeds. I have noticed from your fellowship gatherings, from your singing together, that Rotary is one group that truly overlooks all barriers of color and religion. Indeed, Rotarians have in their organization the basic ingredient for mutual understanding. And out of such understanding grows cooperative efforts which in turn contribute to peace of mind. Expanded to world proportions, here we can have the basis of world peace—that elusive Holy Grail for which Chiefs of States today travel all over the world in an unending search.

Let me give you a concrete example. I am told that politics is banned from discussions in Rotary Clubs—and I think that is a sound practice. But I sincerely believe that among Rotarians such questions as nationalism and Filipino First can be thoroughly threshed out and discussed without passion, without rancor, and without suspicion. Nationalism is so basic to every nation that it is a question that cannot and should not be skirted.

This is no time for me to discuss its meaning as we in the administration perceive it. I have many times in the past defined our position on this subject. I am bringing this up here merely to point out that this is one subject in which

Rotarians can help dispel the clouds of misunderstanding. One cannot talk of good will and service, of fellowship and cooperation, without a basic understanding of a nation's policy of nationalism.

I believe in the tenets of Rotary which among other things express this gem of thought: "In Rotary, thoughtfulness of others is regarded as the basis of service and helpfulness to others as its expression." I wish to assure you that Philippine nationalism today does not depart from this concept—the concept of helpfulness to all elements of the community and respect for established and acquired rights.

The Rotary Club of Quezon City is being launched auspiciously at a significant period of our history. I hope this organization will do justice to the role it is called upon to play as Rotary Club of the capital of the Philippines, a growing, expanding metropolis whose early steps of development indicate it will become the nation's most modern model city.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1960). Speech of President Garcia at the Charter Presentation of the Rotary Club of Quezon City, held at the D & E Restaurant, Quezon City, Monday evening, June 20, 1960. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 56(26), 4319-4322.

**Speech of President Garcia on the observance of the 14th Anniversary of the Independence Day, July 4, 1960**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
On the observance of the 14th Anniversary of the Independence Day**

[July 4, 1960]

MY COUNTRYMEN AND OUR FRIENDS WHO HAVE  
JOINED US IN THIS CELEBRATION TODAY:

THE vast throng which we Filipinos comprise in this park is but the nucleus of an entire nation 27 million strong in joyous observance throughout the country of the Great Day of Independence.

Fourteen years ago today, from the holocaust of war our freedom rose like the Phoenix from the ashes—and with it sovereign statehood. This Republic of the Philippines is the capstone achievement of four centuries of libertarian heroic struggle.

The renowned contemporary British statesman Sir Winston Churchill described the ordeal of the freedom fighting peoples in the recent world war as a trek through a valley of “blood, sweat, and tears.” His words fit well our own travails as one of such nations. And it was also this statesman and wartime leader who paid tribute to the Filipino soldier as among the best in the world in the fight for freedom and human dignity.

The Philippines today is engaged in the task of dignifying its independence and of developing its strength—socially, culturally, economically, and politically—so that the dream come true may always be a good, beautiful, and living reality, the source of the best in life for our people.

For the task at hand, there must be dedication on our part. From the glories of the past, let us draw new inspiration. And like the artist, we must discipline ourselves in the practice of the art of nation building, which calls for the genius of our race to stay at the fore.

I say to you, my dear countrymen, that if this our nation is to live perpetually in freedom, if we propose to live up to the legacy of the past, if we are to achieve in full the bounties that God has earmarked for our people not only of this generation but of the generations of the future, we must be zealous in our exercise of responsibilities as well as of rights in a democracy; we must be worthy of Rizal and the heroic past. We must deserve our glorious future; we must be true to God and to our fellowmen; we must be true to ourselves by disciplining self; we must be inspired by dedication; we must WORK. And, if necessary, we must FIGHT AGAIN.

Whether we shall have to fight once more, only the event will teach us in its hour. But we must work now in the spirit of Peace whose lot it is to work ever for the greatest good. We must do something more in the way of increasing our gains toward economic progress and the general welfare. At the same time, we must watch our ramparts and strengthen the bastions of our defense against aggression and infiltration.

In regard to the latter, the keynote of this year’s Independence Day observance is struck, Discipline for National Greatness. This is not the discipline of fascist or totalitarian communism. It is not a regimentation of human robots. Ours is democratic discipline, the discipline of free men. We do not merely work, obey, and fight. We also think. And the crystallized constructive thought of our people as a nation is the basis of this discipline, the self-discipline to be exercised by each individual citizen and public servant redounding to the best interest of the nation as a whole.

Let me put it this way: From the millions there must be concern for the national welfare and from the nation as a whole will emanate the individual welfare. Each of us is part of the whole and no one can make any lasting gain unless the nation is healthy, strong, and secure. Each of us, therefore, must contribute to this end.

Nor is it enough that we speak of these things. We must do them. I address you in all candor that, for all that has been accomplished, much more remains to be done. Your government is trying to do its utmost within its power under the Constitution and the law and it is doubly resolved on this historic anniversary to keep faith with you and with all that you, the Filipino people, stand for.

With regard to the national security in these uncertain times, we have evolved a foreign and domestic policy calculated to make this country safe for democracy and a contributor to the Great Cause of making the whole world a haven of peace with freedom and justice.

Peace with freedom and justice. A few weeks ago we had for visitor in our midst the President of the United States who came in the course of a worldwide odyssey in quest of the Golden Peace. The phrase which I repeated is his. I quote again from President Dwight D. Eisenhower, "Let us never forget for a moment this world fact: the hulk of the earth's people are joined with us in the eternal pursuit of freedom and dignity and justice for every individual."

And permit me to recall humbly how I observed on the occasion of President Eisenhower's visit that the United States and the Philippines are two of the freest nations of the World and that in the enterprise of helping seek the boons of freedom for all, as well as in preserving their own, our two nations are inextricably linked. On this stand—the policy of corporation with America in the spirit of amity and alliance and on the basis of sovereign equality—the Filipino people, demonstrated far beyond question your adherence and support, with the tremendous welcome and ovation for the President of the United States during his stay in our country.

President Eisenhower's many public statements here culminated in the Joint Communique issued before his departure which included the synthesis of Fil-American collaboration, specifically with a view to "maximum effectiveness in the formulation and execution of U.S. military assistance in the light of modern requirements." President Eisenhower also re-emphasized in his joint communique the concept that in the event of attack there would be "instant (U.S.) retaliation," thus reaffirming the Joint Communique of 1958 issued during my visit of state in Washington.

In the difficult task of nation building, disciplined restraint applies with equal cogency to our conduct of foreign relations. While we are determined that the winds of freedom should blow freely about, we are also cognizant of the requirements of international cooperation in the spirit of the United Nations.

In our pursuit of progress we have refashioned our policies within the context of a rapidly shifting international scene. Thus, in the awareness of our geographical and racial affinity with the Asian nations, a greater stress has been laid upon forging closer ties with them. We hold that if Asia is to have its rightful place in the community of nations, it must achieve unity of objectives and of action. In stressing friendship with our Asian neighbors, we seek to reinvigorate traditional ties and to solve common problems that in here in profound political, economic and cultural changes.

During the recent meeting of the SEATO council of ministers in Washington, the Philippines underscored the need for the members of that regional organization to undertake unflinchingly the task of extracting Southeast Asia from the state of underdevelopment. The defense of freedom rests heavily on the existence of societies where the individuals possess a standard of living to which they would passionately hold on.

Of course, we do not agree with the proposition that freedom is exclusively a matter of material values, but if man does not live by bread alone, he must have the bread that will sustain the vigor with which he has to fight for things of the spirit. If the time comes to defend freedom, let it not be said that the spirit is willing but the flis weak.

In the enterprise to help make Asia become strong, we with our kins, the people of Malaya, will propose the creation of a Southeast Asia Association of States devoted to the up building of Asian prosperity. My projected visit to



Malaya this year is part of a plan of that country and ours to give life to an integrated pattern of cooperation encompassing all our immediate neighbor nations. I am sure that they will join us in this project calculated to benefit all. The basis of this Asian plan is a free exchange of experience, the greatest teacher of all. While this country is ours, she proposes to be truly of the world, not only in amity and ideals but also in trade and commerce. We have to further our economic ties with the United States, but beyond that we must go and therefore we are exploring and opening new outlets for Philippine exports in Asia and Europe.

The new economic blueprint rests on the Filipino First policy, so much criticized by those who do not understand it. Actually it is a vehicle for the nation's growth into a worthy and substantial contributor to the welfare of the world family of nations. A Philippines internally strong will be of value to the world and the international community. In terms of economic contribution alone, such a Philippines is to be desired not only by her own people but also by her friends.

The Philippines proposes to be a strong and healthy nation for the sake of her own people, for the sake of that part of the world to which she belongs, for the sake of the world at large which will be a better place to live in if the littlest state and the humblest people count with the blessings of life.

We have found our friends in the free world responding with understanding and sympathy. And from America—our special ally—has also come not only understanding but even encouragement through President Eisenhower. During his visit here, he endorsed the nationalism of our people and of their government. President Eisenhower's stay with us demonstrated conclusively that there is no diminution in the quality of Fil-American friendship.

In point of fact, the visit climaxed the current process of settlement of Fil-American problems. These include the payment of our gold devaluation claim for \$23 million; the revision of the Military Bases Agreement to the effect of reducing the lease period from 99 to 25 years; the relinquishment of considerable areas of land heretofore under American control and the determination of the metes and bounds of remaining areas to be retained; the release of the Olongapo community to our government; and the clarification by President Eisenhower himself that the U.S. treaty obligation in the Mutual Defense Pact to repel aggression against the Philippines will be done immediately and instantly.

Some problems remain to be solved; such as, the administration of military bases and the criminal jurisdiction over triable offenses. Enactment of a law appropriating payment for additional damage claims is pending in the U.S. Congress with good prospect of approval. Our sugar quota is being improved by American Congress. Adjustment of our obligations under the Romulo-Snyder agreement and our claims for expenses of the Recovered Personnel Division are being ultimated. With ampler American assistance our Armed Forces will be modernized. On the economic phase, the oft-quoted joint communiques give us reasonable hope for more substantial aid to make the Philippines an effective factor for democracy in Asia.

I speak of all this because of its relation to our efforts to stay on our own feet. We shall never be on our knees. Our relations with the United States as well as with the rest of the nations of the world are on the basis of equal sovereignty, as President Eisenhower pointed out during his visit with us and as the whole world recognizes under the Charter of the United Nations.

We have made our political alliances courageously and we have forged our system of national defense in conjunction with the defense of the free world. Our national economy is an internal affair which still challenges the best in our people to solve the problems that beset it.

Today we begin our fifteenth year of independence. July 4, 1946, indeed was a day to become unforgotten ever. Here at the Luneta hundreds of thousands of us watched with throbbing hearts the ceremony marking the birth of the Republic. This edifice of stone from, which I speak was not here then; nor the imposing skyline of modern buildings that we now see around us. But at the time of the proclamation of independence, it did not matter that the ceremonial grandstand was a makeshift affair, that all around were the debris of war, that the whole country was prostrate and bleeding.

Our people only saw the future and felt the moment quote: "This was a moment of eternity. Time seemed to have paused to watch the apotheosis of Democracy in the Far East. This was the culmination of the Dream of Bizal who watched us still from his marble pedestal. . . . This was the final note of that many-centuried melody of yearning . . . that arose one dark morning on the beaches of Mactan, gathered force and tragic sweetness in the precipitous defile of Tirad Pass, on a lonely hill in Balintawak, on a sunny patch of ground at Bagumbayan, and rolled in global thunder through . . . Bataan."

Our eyes were moved to tears and our souls were stirred. Then reality had to be faced again. The task of reconstruction and rehabilitation had to be begun. Time could not erase the face of war; only our hands could. We had to clear the debris; then we had to build anew.

Government buildings were in shambles. Schools, hospitals, homes were in ruins. Agriculture was erased from the ground. There were no ships for vital inter-island communication and transport. Our work animals were also casualties of war. The land was barren and the waters to irrigate them were still. There was no money. Government revenue from taxes could not fully met public expenditures. Fortunately, the situation was retrieved to some extent by extraordinary receipts from abroad, which were largely balances carried over from pre-war years.

The period of reconstruction and rehabilitation was fully accomplished in ten years.

Thereafter, we took off for the grand adventure into the future. We dared into accelerated development. The government spurred production on all fronts, lessened dependence on imports, encouraged capital formation, provided expanding employment opportunities, together with higher income and a rising standard of living for the people. The forces and resources of the national economy were marshaled and mobilized to support the development program. We embarked on development of our vast natural resources in proportions never before attempted. In the larger interest of the nation, there was a call for economic discipline under a system of controls, particularly on foreign currency exchange and on imports.

Over the tremendous objections of many who did not understand, we passed legislations and other measures to stabilize the government fiscal position and consequently the people's economy. Happily the outcome was the stabilization of our finances, the strengthening of the peso, the rise of the credit and confidence of the world in our Republic, the attainment of favorable balance of trade for the first time in post-war years, the rise of the dollar reserves now nearing \$200 million, and the doubling of our gross national income from six to almost 12 billion pesos.

A rising trend of government expenditures is inevitable. Population increases, the maintenance of armed forces, the cost of government operations, and the servicing of public debt—all involve huge sums of money. Furthermore, capital and social overhead projects demand financial resources far above revenue from taxes.

However, if the government revenue trend from 1946 to 1959 can be used as a measure of this country's progress, the picture it depicts is quite heartening. A random comparison of 1946, 1950, 1955, and 1959 income figures shows a steadily rising revenue from all funds in the amounts of ₱69 million, ₱360 million, ₱710 million, and ₱960 million, respectively.

On the expenditure side for the same years, using all resources available, total government outlays were ₱234 million in 1946, ₱562 million in 1950, ₱839 million in 1955 and ₱1.102 million in 1959. The difference between total expenditures and total ordinary revenues were financed from extraordinary receipts, loans, and domestic borrowing. We should note that economic and social expenditures absorbed increasingly larger proportions out of the totals, more than 60 per cent each year.

Tangible result of all these are schools, hospitals, bridges, power and steel plants, housing and resettlement projects, irrigation and hydro-electric projects, besides the intangibles, especially increased productivity induced in the private sector.

Parallel to the fiscal stabilization success, other measures were adopted to induce and encourage investments from the private sectors in production. The past ten years are an eloquent testimony to the great strides achieved in economic progress which is now already gearing toward a never expanding scale of industrialization.

Within the last ten years, our Gross National Product has expanded more than 80 per cent, rising from ₱6.136 billion in 1949 to ₱11.032 billion in 1959. No other country in our part of the world can match this record.

The magnitude of our strides forward may be gleaned from the gains in agriculture, mining, and manufacturing. In the past ten years agricultural production doubled. It stands today four times that of production before the war, when the economy was almost entirely agricultural. In the past ten years mining has trebled its output. Manufacturing is also producing today three times more than the pre-war record.

This is the picture:

Our population has increased 23 per cent during the past ten years.

But our agricultural production has expanded 96 per cent during the same period. Mining output has increased by 179 per cent. And manufacturing by a phenomenal 211 per cent. All in ten years.

The wealth of our natural resources and the existence in our own midst of all the basic raw materials are but for us to utilize in the operation of modern industry. We must carry on with training our people in technological, industrial, management, and administrative skill necessary for the purpose.

We must study more, learn more, and work more.

Already, we are virtually self-sufficient in the necessities of life; that is, in food, clothing, and shelter. Our production of rice and corn was in surplus the last two years. Our agricultural export products should be bountiful this year again. In addition, more than 1,000 food-processing plants are now operating in the country. Eight integrated textile mills and 20 knitting mills are capable of supplying three-fourths of our clothing needs, saving us as well \$70 million in foreign exchange annually. A Philippine cotton growing industry will raise the supply of raw materials to meet our requirement 100 per cent.

Our forest resources valued at billions of pesos should certainly be able to fill our construction needs with a supply for export to spare. We have cement factories, glass factories, metal sheet plants, and varied industries turning our construction materials. We have the physical assets. Let us utilize them with our hands, our heads, and our hearts to produce prosperity.

We also have the financial institutions necessary to help— commercial banks, rural banks, insurance-institutions, the social security machinery, mutual funds enterprises, home financing organizations—governmental and private—all servicing progress.

The growing stature of our economy is palpable not only in the domestic activity alone. Our international position has also improved considerably. Last year we had a favorable balance of trade in the sum of ₱40 million. Foreign trade increased by 25 per cent; imports decreased by 13 per cent, and exports increased by no less than 115 per cent. We thus paid our short term foreign obligations and at the same time added more than \$17 million to our first six months of 1960, the dollar reserve went up by another \$32 million. It stands now at \$195 million, the highest since 1957.

The year under review has been one of the most fruitful years in the life of the Philippine Republic. It was during this year that we had won for the first time during our four centuries of Christianity the appointment of a Filipino as Cardinal in the person of Rufino Cardinal Santos. It was during this year that we won the lightweight junior championship of the world in the youthful Young Flash-Elorde. It was during this year that we have seen the inauguration of the world's biggest dome auditorium, the Araneta Coliseum. It was also for the first time that the

biggest industry for the manufacture of agricultural implements, machineries, and spare parts out of locally-produced materials contributed by 124 Filipino cottage industries was established by the International Harvester of the Philippines. This is a significant stride in the industrialization program of making use of locally-made raw materials. And of course, in the line of arts, we have also for the first time in the year under review won universal recognition for our Philippine folklores art which has been broadcast all over the world through the initiative and enterprise of the Bayanihan Art Center.

With the encouraging state of the economy, we are implementing now steps toward final, complete, and absolute decontrol. We have already decontrolled partially by freeing a sizable portion of the foreign exchange reserve. The gradual decontrol program has been laid out for a period not to exceed four years. Now, I feel confident that we will be able to decontrol finally, completely, and absolutely in three years. Then, free enterprise shall return and, with it, a normal economic environment.

This is my special message to you on this the 14th year of our independence. Please let me remind you once more of the responsibilities of freedom, not only of the freedom of economic enterprise but also of freedom in every phase of our national life. Freedom is the opportunity to do the right thing.

Today our future appears bright. Our countryside is peaceful. Our economy is being put in order. Our national security is being enhanced. Our individual rights are respected. The machinery of justice is in working order. Opportunities will increase.

The need now is Discipline for National Greatness. To this end may I remind of the first message I sent to Congress after my election as President on the imperative of building the House of the Nation on rock. "And the rain fell, and floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, but it did not fall because it was founded on rock."

Thank you and God bless the nation.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Speech of President Garcia on the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the Civil Service, September 19, 1960  
PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH BEFORE THE PERSONNEL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF THE  
PHILIPPINES IN THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 19, 1960, AT THE MANILA HOTEL, ON THE  
OCCASION OF THE DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE**

I MUST say at the outset that this is one gathering which I would have felt greatly honored to join and which even this very minute, as I realize that this program is now going on, makes me genuinely happy to think about. You are, however, familiar with the unbending tyranny of doctors, which is the only reason why I am unable to obey my great desire to be with you tonight.

Young as your organization is, it has already demonstrated over the past three years that when men of a high purpose and an honest will join hands to achieve an important mission, barriers disappear quickly and rewards, both for themselves and the country at large, wait to crown their efforts. At the very least, you have as a determined and progressive group brought to an immense segment of our society a deep and disturbing consciousness of the need for an efficient, competent, and sincere public service. To produce a body of men dedicated to the fulfillment of this need has been your unswerving purpose, and I am happy to join the rest of the country in remarking upon your success.

Even as you meet tonight, you have already completed one fruitful day of deliberations on the vital subject of improving various aspects of the public service. I am confident that the discussions you have today, particularly those concerned with the development of an attractive career service, the recruitment and selection of management personnel, and the civic responsibility of government employees, will contribute immensely to the enrichment of public service in this country. By holding these deliberations during the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the civil service, you are also drawing appropriate and timely attention to one of the outstanding institutions of Philippine democratic government.

Let me assure you that I share one paramount concept of your organization—which, that public service is a growing thing, requiring advancement in ideas as well as in methods. For this reason, frequent appraisals, especially by those involved in its management and conduct, are a continuing necessity. Public service, such as you have devoted yourselves to, whether as employees in government or in private enterprise, needs constantly to attune itself to changes brought about by social, cultural, and economic growth. We cannot as a nation afford either complacency or indifference in the handling of those serious and often critical services upon which our society depends. In the final analysis, whatever progress is gained in economy, education, and social relations will endure and achieve their proper value only insofar as the efficiency and the humanness of public service will permit it.

I, therefore, find it excellent step in the right direction that, under your guidance and sponsorship, personnel involved in various forms of public service are steering their thoughts and efforts towards an eventual reorganization of the public service so that only those will remain who are fit in mind and spirit to conduct its complex affairs.

The selection of the right men in any organization concerned with public welfare and public service is one of those fundamental obligations that for so long in the past had received only scant attention. Even today, sincere efforts to perform this important obligation are often frustrated or shunted off by certain manipulations and conspiracies of selfish politics or bureaucracy. If the Personnel Officers Association of the Philippines has succeeded only in agitating the public mind to correct this condition, it will have gone a long way toward the mission it has chartered for itself. The need to recast thinking on the methods and responsibilities of the public service has existed for countless years, and I am gratified by the observation that an association like yours is finally standing up to its huge challenge.

It has always been one of my fundamental aims to promote every effort in this direction. It has been the desire to achieve that aim with the least delay and with utmost profit to the ideals of good public service that I sought the passage of an effective anti-graft law designed at once to protect the deserving and remove the unfit from the government service. Much earlier, upon my assumption of office as President, I insisted upon and secured the organization of the Presidential Committee on Administration Performance Efficiency, equipped with sufficient

authority to root out the sources as well as the instruments of incompetence, inefficiency and corruption in the government. In doing so, however, I have extreme care that the process of purification be both thorough and fair and that the removal of dishonest personnel be itself an honest process, free of malice and unjust premeditation.

This seems to me the essence of every sincere endeavor to develop an honest and efficient public service. The preciousness of the individual man ought to be recognized every step of the way, and respect for the human person ought never to be lost sight of even we measure, evaluate, criticize, and hold up to the light his capabilities and attitudes. Charitableness of this kind is not inconsistent with the urgent need of securing a high order of public service personnel. I am happy to realize that your methods, as suggested in the topics of discussion during your current conference, point to the observation of ethical norms.

I wish to emphasize at this point that in the campaign against graft and corruption, the full cooperation of all the members within the province of civil service is a vital factor if this campaign against graft must succeed. My administration is committed to eradicate venalities in all forms from the public service. I believe that with your sincere and all-out cooperation, we can give our people the best and the highest standard of public service.

In recent months, a reappraisal of our entire civil service has been going on. I am happy to report that my administration has created the stimulation for such an appraisal and will, as it is now doing, provide unceasing support to every honest attempt outside its own sphere to attain the previously elusive ideal of an excellent civil service.

I realize that contributions from special groups like yours and from the general public itself, in the form of initiative, cooperation, and fresh and effective techniques, are indispensable to this upheaval in the civil service. This is my special reason for being eager to convey to you tonight my gratefulness for the admirable work in which you are engaged. I wish to assure you that, as it is with you, an early and effective reformation in our entire public service lies at the very core of my plans for the advancement of this country.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia at the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the UP College of Law**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the UP College of Law**

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, January 14, 1961]

TONIGHT, as we cap the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the LLP. College of Law, with this occasion, we have before us a telescoped view, as it were, of the half century just past. Looking over this period with the lighting eye of memory and remembrance, we note with some astonishment the far-reaching changes which time and events have wrought in our society. Within that period of time, which is short enough to be compressed within the memory of many living men, we have metamorphosed from a colony to a republic, independent and sovereign, and a member of good standing in the family of nations. We have ceased to be a mere conglomeration of tribes, with parochial outlook and a narrow self-regard, and have become one people and one nation, not without differences to be sure, but still conscious of a common heritage and bound by common aspirations. From what was chiefly a barter economy, we have evolved a modern entrepreneurial system, characterized by large-scale agriculture, fast-rising manufacturing industries, commercial activities, financial establishments, and other enterprises usually associated with modern business. Our people have grown vastly in number; during the fifty years just past, our population has trebled. This was due in part to our increased facilities in combating disease and improving sanitation, in increasing our food supply as well as other necessities of life. As a consequence, tremendous areas of what was once farmland and forest have become urbanized giving rise to towns and cities. Hand in. hand with this development, we experienced a tremendous improvement in facilities for education, transportation, communication, recreation, as well as in other convenience essential to civilized living.

In this upward movement towards progress and prosperity, the contribution of law and those who take part in its administration is crucial as well as substantial. I do not say that the law and its ministers are responsible for the better things which have come about for our people. I do not insist that the law has been efficient cause behind our progress. I do maintain, however, that the law, with its coercive methods and techniques, was an indispensable condition for the proper development of our society. Our progress could not have taken place except in the context of our law.

This is not the place and time for a disquisition on the relation of law to civilization. Nevertheless, the general observation must be made that it is the law which give organic unity to the nation, harmony and stability to personal and institutional relations in our society, and opportunity for peaceful changes. From the viewpoint of social organization, it is through law that the State is established, its government ordained, its powers and limitations thereon specified, and its relations with the citizens ascertained. From the standpoint of stability, it is through law that general security for all citizens is made possible by punishing criminals and other evil doers, by enforcing agreements and by holding everyone in the Islands to the obligations expected of civilized men generally. Lastly, from the standpoint of opportunity for peaceful reform, it is through the methods of law that new forces in our society are able to achieve expression and to bring about the necessary changes, whether social or economic. Essentially, therefore, law is the instrument by means of which our society has made possible the accommodation of the three prime requisites for national progress, which are an effective and just government stability and security in personal as well as property relations, and an opportunity for peaceful reform.

From this consideration of the importance of our law in fostering progress and national growth, the role of the U.P. College of Law in the advancement of the country becomes manifest. Through its alumni, including the thirty whom we are honoring tonight, its influence has been deeply felt in matters vital, even crucial, to our common life. Many

of them are zealous libertarians and have fought honorably for national dignity, for democratic processes. Their views have exerted a powerful force in the formulation as well as in the implementation of public policy.

In the executive branch of the government, the U. P. law alumni have endeavored to make the government machinery responsive to the pressing needs of the people. They have contributed their effort and their knowledge in the ascertainment of serious social and economic problems and in directing the flow of government activity to deal with such problems. President Roxas sought to alleviate the evils of tenancy; Mr. Justice Laurel aspired to protect our people from the capacity of the enemy during the dark days of the Occupation; and President Quirino is still remembered for his program of total economic mobilization. Together with many others, these men have been instrumental in keeping the government, in its fight with the enemies of the people, along the constitutional path. In those turbulent days when they held the helm of power, crisis after crisis confronted the government; but on the whole, the democratic process was preserved and our traditions of liberty tenuous as they were, remained unbroken.

In the judiciary, the primacy of the U.P. alumni remain undisputed. I need not stress the fact that nine of the eleven justices of our Supreme Court as at present constituted were graduated from the U. P. College of Law and are now in the list of honorees for this occasion. By their zeal and learning, by their rectitude and fair dealing, the alumni in the various courts have enabled our judiciary to maintain the faith and confidence of our people, and thus aided greatly in the survival of the Republic in its darkest days. On the technical side, their contributions are equally impressive. They have done a good deal in purging our legal system of anomalies and expendable fictions, in the refinement of legal rules towards consistency, and in shaping the mass of legal rules to meet the demands of fundamental, public policy. Our Supreme Court is specially to be commended in construing controverted legislation in the light of the nationalistic spirit of our Constitution. Mention must also be made of the Code Commission, which has been chiefly constituted of law alumni headed by the former Dean of U. P. College of Law and President of the University, Mr. Justice Bocobo. In their expert study of our legal system, they have gone a long way towards purging it of anachronisms.

Then, in the legislative branch; U. P. alumni continue to be dominant personalities and wield an influence far out of proportion to their number. The list is too long for us to risk the mention of any names. Their leadership is acknowledged and their learning is unsurpassed by any other group. They have been always on the forefront in the fight for progressive legislation. They have been behind many measures for economic development, for labor and social welfare benefits, for an equitable sharing in the national wealth. They have led also in the struggle for the preservation of our national dignity, for the conservation of the national patrimony, for the primacy of Filipino businessman in terms of economic opportunity in the led of his birth.

Summing up the role of the U. P. College of Law in the field of law as it has affected progress, we can say without exaggeration that through its alumni, it has helped nourish the creative energies of our people by its enlightened influence in the formulation of administrative policy, in legislation and in the administration of justice.

But freedom has many phases. The winning of one phase of it only underscores and makes more patent the lack of the others. Without in the very least understating the achievements of our past leaders, I must say to you that the winning of political freedom does not, and should not, mark the end of our aspiration as a nation. That fight has been fought and won. We must preserve and maintain the fruits of that victory. But there is a bigger fight that we must fight, a larger battle to which we must commit our forces. I refer to the fight for economic independence—the fight for economic emancipation of our people.

In the evolution of our life as a nation after political independence the battle for economic independence logically flows. This is the battle we can not afford to lose. If we do so, if we lose this fight for economic dominance in our country, even the present political freedom that we enjoy today at a cost of so much hardship and sacrifice may yet be lost.

Economic dominance by Filipinos in our own land is the key to true progress and prosperity. It is the key to the uplift of our masses, the key to real freedom. It is imperative that we fight and win this battle. If we refuse to do so, we shall have lost by default to the communists who are putting up their system as the alternative way.



It is in recognition of these imperatives plus my own desire to see our country become truly free and prosperous under the aegis to democratic institutions and free enterprise that I have committed my administration to this battle. It is this, administration which has enunciated "Filipino First," as an official government policy in matters of economics and trade. This administration has embarked on a "no-quarter-asked- and-no-quarter-given" war against graft in the government which is a weapon used by some aliens to maintain and to further their economic dominance over our people. During my administration you saw for the first time Filipino businessmen receive bigger and bigger dollar allocations over these of all other aliens. In the years before 1958 the bulk of dollar allocations went to alien businessmen. In 1958 this was radically changed. That year Filipino businessmen received 43.8 per cent, Americans 36 per cent, Chinese 10.1 per cent, British 8.2 per cent, and others 1.9 per cent of dollar allocations. The change was even more radical in 1959. This time Filipinos received 52 per cent of dollar allocations, more than all other nationalities combined received. The others decreased proportionately. Americans got 33 per cent; Chinese 6.8 per cent, British 7 per cent, and other 1.2 per cent. The percentage for Filipinos rose higher in 1960.

But I cannot fight this battle alone. Your government cannot carry by itself on this task. I need your help and your support. I stand here today to ask you to march shoulder to shoulder with me that we may fight on to victory on this economic Armageddon of the Filipino people.

During the last half century, graduates of the U. P. College of Law have stood on the forefront of the fight for political freedom. They manned the barricades, so to speak not only in the bloody terrain of physical war but also in the less bloody but no less tricky and dangerous terrain of peace. That battle has been won and the front has shifted. I call on you to follow the footsteps of your noble predecessors and fellow alumni, to be on the forefront of this new fight to be the leaders and the strategists of this new quest. And God willing, when that battle is won sometime in the foreseeable future, posterity will proudly say of our generation thus: They have done their duty as true Filipinos.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1961). President Garcia's speech during the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the UP College of Law held at the Manila Hotel, Saturday evening, January 14, 1961. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57(5), 810-814.

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia at the Stanvac Award Dinner**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the Stanvac Award Dinner**

[Delivered at the National Press Club, January 28, 1961]

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I THANK you for the invitation to speak before you tonight. This is an annual occasion to which I look forward to principally because it affords me the opportunity to break bread with members of the Fourth Estate. To the awardees go my warmest congratulations for the honors which have been conferred upon them and which I am certain they have so well earned and richly deserve.

Looking around me tonight, I am happy to see such a cosmopolitan and international group gathered here, amidst a festive atmosphere of fellowship and goodwill. Before such a gathering, I believe it most appropriate to speak on the relationship between Filipinos and citizens of other countries in the Free World engaged in the task of building up a strong and progressive Philippines through cooperation in the agricultural, commercial, and industrial phases of the economy.

Any assessment of international relations in economic pursuits must perforce consider the the basic fact of nationalism. The movement of nationalism, the awakening of national consciousness, is a very real force today, not only in the Philippines but in every newly independent country the world over.

These countries have recently emerged from a colonial status to political freedom, and now seek for themselves the economic development which will buttress that freedom and gain for their respective peoples the realization of age-old aspirations for adequacy in the basic necessities of life.

They are attempting to accomplish in a very short span of years, and with very limited resources at hand, what the industrial and advanced nations took decades to achieve. They are attempting to tap their latent natural resources, establish and expand productive facilities, develop and diversify channels of trade and finance, and mobilize the energies of their peoples in the drive for progress.

Economic development in the face of limited financial resources is a supremely difficult task, and one that requires the concentration not only of a nation's physical strength but also of the hearts and minds of its people.

It is but natural that nationalism becomes the cohesive force that binds together the diverse and varied strands of a country's life, including the pursuit of economic activities, into that unity of effort required to achieve common objectives and goals.

In the Philippines we find a positive embodiment of nationalism in the Filipino First policy, which seeks to enhance greater participation of our citizens in the activities vital to our economic well-being, such as ownership and control of the means of production. However, we do not regard this policy as an exclusivistic movement to shut out foreign participation. On the contrary, the government recognizes the value and assistance of foreign capital and technological aid in our development. I have, time and again, emphasized this fact in public statements.

I would like to point out that most underdeveloped countries have come to accept the fact that external assistance can play a potent role in the acceleration of economic progress. Matching the ardor of nationalism is a consuming desire for development. In the beginning many of these countries pushed ambitious programs for rapid development, even though handicapped by low levels of savings and lack of investment capital. To pay for these programs, they freely resorted to deficit financing and credit expansion. These moves led to inflation which rapidly depleted the underdeveloped countries' foreign exchange holdings, in the face of the cyclical instability of world demand for their traditional raw-material exports. As a result, controls had to be imposed over trade, exchange, and investments which, at times, became so complex as to be beyond the capacity of instability and uncertainty which accompanied the feverish prosecution of development plans thus defeated the purpose and proved to be an effective obstacle to the rapid attainment of the objectives.

Today, we find many countries drawing the lesson from their past experiences that the pace of progress can be painfully slow in the absence of substantial foreign assistance.

Far-sighted leaders in these countries realize that the tremendous potentials in human and natural resources that lie within their borders can be initially unleashed only with vital technological skills and supplementary investment capital from external sources. However, I must also point out that while they are willing to look abroad for partnership and assistance in the prosecution of economic development, they will not do so at the expense of their national integrity. They do not want the domination of their economies by aliens, as it was in their colonial past. Rather they look for partnership between citizens and foreigners on the basis of mutual understanding and mutual benefit.

The *Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East* for 1959 stated that the "attraction of foreign loans, grants, and investments, both on government and private account" was an important policy line for all the countries in the region, and for some of them the most successful one.

Incentives to foreign private investment have been offered by such countries as Iran, India, Pakistan, Burma, Vietnam, the Federation of Malay, the Republic of China, and Thailand. Such moves include exemption privileges 'from import duties and income taxes, specific guarantees against nationalization, freedom to remit profits, facilities for the repatriation of capital, and rights to ownership of land. In 1959 Burma passed its Union of Burma Investment Act, which granted non-nationalization guarantees and freedom from import duties to foreign investors for specified periods. Closer to our shores, Taiwan has adopted a liberal foreign investments law which provides for a wide array of attraction including tax exemption privileges, full profit remittance privileges, dollar retention privileges, and facilities for capital repatriation.

These developments emphasize the desirability of codifying our own policy on the attraction of foreign investments to participate in Philippines economic development at the earliest possible date. In view of this, I have once more urged Congress to pass a Foreign Investment Law. We already possess the basic incentives. Profit margins are high compared not only with those in most underdeveloped countries, but even the advanced countries as well. Our political maturity and stability is a tested fact. Our economy is steadily progressing under a program of agro-industrialization which sees the development of new enterprises and new markets every day. Our introduction of a program to decontrol foreign exchange and imports has brought in a new elements propitious to foreign investments. Even at the present early stages of decontrol, foreign investors get the "free market rate" upon entering, and are able to remit their profits and amortization at the same rate. The flexibility in our foreign trade and exchange system should make conditions more favorable to incoming external capital.

What is needed now is a definite codification of our program covering foreign investments, their obligations and our concessions. The objective of such a codification would be to eliminate any element of uncertainty in the business climate as regard foreign investment activity. The foreign investment law should therefore considers three basic ingredients. First, the scope of economic activity open to foreign investments; second, the obligations and guarantees to be offered foreign investments in general; and the special incentives and guarantees to provide special attraction into fields which we want to promote and where the entry of foreign investments may be highly desirable, such as those requiring large capitalization and considerable technological resources; and third, the designation of the government body to act on all matters pertaining to foreign investments.

There may be certain fields where the participation of foreign investments would have to be either limited or completely debarred owing to interests of security or national policy. Such activities would include enterprises in which national defense and security are concerned or where the lifeblood streams of national survival are predominantly present. In the economic fields where special attraction is desirable, such as the highly complicated industries ancillary to steel, basic chemical industries requiring advanced and costly technological processes, or highly specialized extractive industries, special inducement could be provided to foreign investors. Other incentives in addition to the general guaranties of non-nationalization, non-confiscation, profit remittance, and reparation at the prevailing exchange rate may be offered. Such privileges and protection may take the form of some tax exemptions, assistance in land and building acquisition, and other incentives that will be studied by our National Economic Council. However, these concessions will only be made available to those firms with a certain minimum of foreign capital. Outside of these specified fields, foreign investors should be fully free to enter and conduct their business operations *in* conformity with the general policies of our Government and in a manner not detrimental to the interest of the country.

While the administration looks with favor on foreign equity capital on the basis of joint participation with nationals on strictly conditions without any political strings attached to it, there can be no hard and fast rule in this matter.

The Philippine Government will not object to foreign capital having control of a concern for a limited period, if it is found to be in the national interest. Similarly with regard to the point that Filipinos be tried to replace foreign nationals, our Government would not object to the employment of foreigners when Filipinos of the requisite qualifications were not available. Aside from these conditions, the foreign investors will be subject to ordinary regulations and restrictions applicable to business in general, however, with the broad guarantees of non-nationalization and non-confiscation. Remittances of profits and capital repatriation though will be subject to the prevailing foreign exchange position of the country.

It should be made unequivocally clear that the Philippines welcomes the contribution of foreign capital and technological skills to the economic development effort. In closing, may I repeat that while foreign investors are welcome, even more welcome are those who enter into joint-ventures of partnership with our own citizens in the establishment and operation of a business or industrial enterprise. This should not be surprising, since in the context of our social and political philosophy, this is the form of organization which best brings out the human values of teamwork and cooperation. A joint venture which brings together both capital and managerial resources from both sides is an arrangement conducive to mutual respect, mutual understanding, and mutual benefit. A type of joint venture which may be particularly suited to Philippine conditions is that of the technological assistance contract by which Filipino capitalists may avail themselves of the skills of foreign specialists in their fields of enterprise.

For the present, while enactment of the Foreign Investment Law is pending, new foreign investments fall under the selective policies governing the establishment of new industries now being implemented by government agencies; such as, the National Economic Council, the Central Bank, and the Securities and Exchange Commission. However, once a new enterprise secures official approval, it should be accorded every facility and support to ensure its success. When all is said and done, we hope to see the emergence of a business environment in this country competitive with the best anywhere in the world.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1961). Speech of President Garcia at the Stanvac Award Dinner at the National Press Club, Saturday evening, January 28, 1961, where he was Guest of Honor. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57(6), 1027-1031.

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia at the Convocation Commemorating the 27th Anniversary of the Far Eastern University, FEU Quadrangle, January 30, 1961**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA’S SPEECH AT THE CONVOCATION COMMEMORATING THE 27TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY, FEU QUADRANGLE, MONDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 30, 1961**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

TWENTY-SEVEN years ago the nation underwent a political transition, the Commonwealth period, and we, the people, were faced with the collective challenge to build a nation sturdy and firm, and to govern ourselves. The late Dr. Nicanor Reyes responded to the challenge by founding the Far Eastern University.

Dr. Reyes, scientist and educator, envisioned the imperative need for private non-political, non-sectarian Filipino institutions of higher learning to train the country’s youth who may later assume the monumental task of nation-building. The numerous men and women your University has trained to man the wheels of nation-building and development attest to the clarity of his vision.

Underscoring further the vision of your founder, private education has assumed—in great part—the duty of the state for the education of our people. Figures bear this out: 60 per cent of our secondary and 90 per cent of our collegiate and graduate students attend private schools.

My friends, the need for able and far-sighted men and women is a continuing one. Our political independence is won, our nation is built, but we still must recapture our economic independence. With this in mind, I gladly accepted your alumni president’s invitation to visit with you and share my thoughts on “the Filipino youth and nationalism.” You, today’s youth, are after all our country’s leaders tomorrow.

Nationalism is not an original commodity of the Asian or the African. But nationalism thunders loudest in Asia and Africa today. History tells us that it was in 17th century England where nationalism first manifested itself and the Geneva-born French philosopher, Jean Jacques Rousseau, was the first to expound on it. In his “Social Contract,” Rousseau, who greatly inspired Filipino nationalists like Dr. Jose Rizal and M. H. del Pilar, created an ideal community, a “true” political community with mutual devotion and love of the fatherland as the moral foundation of his state. His citizens, the people, were the center of his nation.

Ardent love of the Fatherland then is nationalism. It is deep attachment to one’s native soil, unselfish loyalty of the individual to his country; it is community-consciousness. It is, of course, a state of mind. But it manages to develop loyalty without the whip or a coercing hand. It is devotion to country.

What energizes it is national discipline. With this discipline, nationalism is a vital, potent, and active force. Without it, it becomes an empty catchword. No amount of legislation can help a people assert itself and rendezvous with destiny, for the “will” is not in the people.

Across the world today—in Asia, in Africa, and in the Americas—peoples and states pulsate with nationalism. For the first time in the history of mankind, it is the driving socio-political force in virtually all countries and all civilizations. As the journalists have written, it sweeps the country.

This, despite the forces of reaction. These forces, which would perpetuate a Filipino nation groveling in the misery of a putrid *status quo ante*, have sought to discredit the nationalism I have espoused by deliberate distortion of our Filipino policy, maliciously depicting it as an anti-foreign and exclusivistic policy.

Filipino First Policy does not shut our doors to our outside friends. In fact, we continue to invite capital from friends to invest in our country. I have recommended to Congress the enactment of a foreign investment bill designed to attract foreign capital and help develop further our economy.

It is the policy of my administration that Filipinos receive greater participation in their own country's economic activities. The invitation for foreign capital to invest in our country and give the economy a push is not inconsistent nor incompatible with the Filipino First policy. The foreign investment law being proposed will provide a favorable climate to attract foreign capital and would include incentives; such as, a more liberal rate of repatriation of capital. I dare say that the most ideal arrangement would call for a partnership with aliens preferably providing for the technical skill.

When present-day nationalism—a feeble voice at the start—erupted, it exploded like a booming thunderclap that drowned the deriding voices. The people gave our Filipino First policy a resounding popular endorsement in 1959, and the skeptics of Filipino First policy had to switch tactics. They were, they said, for “positive nationalism” and for “cultural nationalism.”

My young friends, there can only be one kind of nationalism. Devoid and stripped of delineations, colorations, or shadings, nationalism simply means love of country and the determination to do good by our fellow countrymen. Whether manifested in the political, the cultural, or the economic fields, it forms part of the whole.

And so, who is the nationalist? The nationalist, I submit, is:

The sari-sari store owner who sells at reasonable prices and does not try to make a fortune overnight.

The industrialist who invests his money and help in his country's development.

The farmer who tills the field and helps feed his countrymen.

The student who studies hard to prepare and adequately equip himself for the day when he will serve his country and his fellowmen.

These are nationalists.

Youth of the Philippines, our country calls upon you. We have won political independence, but the fight for economic emancipation continues. We are in the great turn. The government can only create a legal climate for you, The enactment into law of Filipinization measures alone is point of our history. For the first time in 400 years of our economy.

Your generation has a special and distinctive mission to our people have been aroused to break the alien domina but the drive and determination must be supplied by you not enough. You must help energize these legislations emancipation continues. We are in the great turn. The government can only create a legal climate for you, The enactment into law of Filipinization measures alone is point of our history. For the first time in 400 years of our economy.

Upon your collective shoulders, then, is placed the task of carrying on the struggle for realization of this national aspiration. It is my fondest hope you will respond. Help generate this national philosophy. When it shall be fulfilled, it will be the greatest source of our national pride.

The fight for economic emancipation is, of course, not as romantic as a political revolution. You cannot die for it. We, Filipinos, have demonstrated repeatedly that we have the courage and the willingness to undergo sacrifices and to die for our native land if it need be.

But the summons to you, the Filipino youth, is in a field of endeavor which is just as vital in our national life. You, young university men and women, have, by your higher education, a greater responsibility indeed. Train well, prepare well. Our developing and ever expanding industries, our growing financial and business houses, our

government and our schools, await the young men and the young women who are skilled and who are equipped to occupy the pivotal jobs in the nation. To fall short of this high expectation will be to fall short of the requirements of national discipline in the nationalism we embrace.

It is also you, the youth, who can best help the Administration eliminate graft and corruption from the public service. Despite the "total war" we have waged against this cancer, and although we have scored some 9,547 convictions on our scoreboard, the malady has proved itself so deep-rooted that it will take no less than a supreme total national effort to weed it out completely.

How can it be that with some 21,992 cases filed, 13,600 cases decided, and with 9,547 convictions obtained, our government is still gnawed by this social cancer? Perhaps the solution may be found in the theory that the bribe-taker is not as guilty as the bribe-giver. I dare say the bribe giver should be meted out sterner punishment.

History shows graft and corruption existed in our country as early as Spain's rule. The martyr-patriot, Dr. Rizal, wrote of it with anguish as part of his time's "social cancer" in his "Noli Me Tangere." Contemporary history records it as a sore in the government when the Nacionalista Party wrested the government from the Liberals in 1953. In the name of nationalism, I appeal to you, the enlightened youth, to give me your all-out support in this war on graft and corruption.

In concluding, my young friends, I wish to dwell briefly on the juvenile delinquency problem, the continuing fight against communism, and the conservation and maximum use of our natural wealth.

We are particularly distressed by the rising incidence of juvenile delinquency which besets most countries of the world, even in totalitarian states like Soviet Russia. Juvenile delinquency, of course, stands indicted in the hearts and minds of men. But mere indictment is insufficient. I dare say the government alone cannot meet this problem, although it is doing its utmost to eliminate it. I subscribe also to the belief that parents cannot face this alone; neither can this university go it alone. But the government, the parents, and this great university, in a joint effort, could stamp out this social evil.

We are deeply disturbed, too, by the communists' insidious efforts to infiltrate the ranks of our youth. The communists, I must warn you, are subtle in their ways. In fact, it is because they are subtle that they are effective. It is always the youth, together with the workers and young professionals, who are the initial and prime targets of communist infiltration. And the student body of this university is no exception.

I would like to see our youth organized for civic service. It is a novel way to harness the skilled and educated youth for development of the country. With such an organization, the country will have ready manpower to man key posts in the government as well as to provide the brains and sinews to our industry and business.

As I said in my state-of-the-nation speech before the joint session of Congress:

"The Filipino youth, fired with ardent patriotism and raring to do something for their beloved fatherland, should be rallied and organized for civic service. They can be of immense help in solving the worsening youth delinquency problem. They are a definite asset in lighting communism. They can be of massive assistance, as once in the past, in keeping elections free, honest, and orderly. They can contribute effectively in our efforts for reforestation and against deforestation and also in the conservation of other natural resources. They can wield a tremendous influence for good in moral regeneration and in many other undertakings requiring mass action."

But I firmly oppose the organization of a national youth agency such as that proposed by certain political aspirants. I am against control of the youth by the state which such an agency would do. This proposal by the Opposition would seek to regiment the youth. It smacks of fascism. And it may well be the forerunner of Brown Shirts and Black Shirts.

Educational institutions should unquestionably be the proper instruments for the development and sharpening of the minds of our young people and definitely not national youth agencies. This university as well as other institutions of learning have the tremendous responsibility of safeguarding the basic freedoms of the individual. Any educational policy that is described as “cultural” but intended primarily to destroy the integrity and liberty of the individual, does violence to the university and is destructive of society itself.

A true Filipino nationalist fights for a regime of justice, liberty, and democracy as ordained in our Constitution. He believes that sovereignty resides in the people and that all governmental power emanates from them. He is therefore willing to fight and, if need be, surrender his life to uphold and maintain free, honest, and orderly elections.

I therefore invite the alumni and the student body of the university and the youth throughout our land to be on the alert against any attempt at violation and commission of frauds in the forthcoming national elections. I will not tolerate and, much less, allow election frauds. I call upon you to maintain your vigilance in order that our democratic institutions and traditions will be preserved for posterity.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**



**OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**

**Speech of President Garcia at the opening of the Convention of the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the opening of the Convention of the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities**

[Delivered at the Pines Hotel, Baguio, February 16, 1961]

WHEN I was invited to address this distinguished body of educators, I readily accepted the invitation because I knew that I would be speaking to men and women who have dedicated and are still dedicating their learning and their energies to the noble task of nation building. You have done well in deciding to hold your convention in this city, for with the bracing climate and the beautiful surroundings that you find here, you will not lack the vigor and the inspiration you need for the discussion of your common problems.

It is gratifying to note that one of the aims of the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities is to raise the standard of instruction in our private schools. I agree with you that there is a real and pressing need not only of upgrading but also of updating our curricular standard. The last war created a break in the education of our children. Because of the troubled conditions in the country during the trying days of the Japanese occupation, thousands of children had to stop their studies. Consequently, after the liberation, the number of children that needed to be accommodated was enormous, and since the government could not open enough schools to accommodate them because of its depleted finances and our shattered economy, private schools mushroomed everywhere in order to meet the demand of the people for educational facilities for their children. Unfortunately, some of these schools were not properly equipped and staffed for effective instruction owing also to the economic prostration after and because of the war. True, the very poor ones have since been closed, but even then it is still necessary to keep on improving those that remain in order that our children and young people will derive the greatest benefit from their schooling.

The need for this improvement gains in strength and urgency when it is remembered that most of our students in the higher levels of our educational system are enrolled in private schools. In my last message to Congress on the state of the nation I stated that 60 per cent of the secondary students and 90 per cent of those on the college and graduate levels are enrolled in private institutions of learning. That, to be sure, is a very significant portion of our student population. But how this improvement can best be brought about is a matter that needs serious study. That is one of the biggest problems this convention is confronted with.

One of the recommendations I made in that message was to create or elect a committee or board that can help in the supervision of private schools. The question which I believe would come up and would need to be threshed out is the proper relation that should exist between this board or committee and the Bureau of Private Schools, which to this day is the exclusive office that is charged with the duty of supervising and regulating the operation of private schools.

Another problem that may come up concerns the implications for private school supervision of the constitutional provision that "all schools shall be under the supervision of, and subject to, regulation by the State." Does this provision make it mandatory on the part of the State to exercise exclusive supervision over the schools, public as well as private? If so, if the supervision and regulation of private schools has been imposed upon the State as a duty by the sovereign will of the Filipino people, can the State renounce completely or share partly that duty in favor of any private entity? In other words, can the supervision and regulation of the private schools be entrusted wholly or

partly to accrediting associations created and maintained by the private schools themselves, as is being done in the United States? I pose this question for your careful consideration.

I understand that the theme of this convention makes reference to the contributions of private education. I need not touch upon your contributions in the past because you know them better than I do. Permit me, however, to point the direction which the efforts of the private schools might take in their desire to contribute to the improvement of the social and economic conditions in this country. This contribution is to be expected because the school or educational institution, being a social institution, must be of some positive service to society and the nation in which it exists and from which it derives its sustenance.

One of the things our people are working for these days is the attainment of our economic independence. Until about a decade and a half ago our dream was to be politically free. But when we finally obtained our political independence in 1946, we found out that, in order to enjoy its blessings, we must also gain our economic independence; we must be our own masters economically. This is not the case today, since a high percentage of our domestic trade and 70 per cent of our export business are in the hands of aliens. And so, to correct this defect, we have adopted the Filipino First policy, a policy which has won the enthusiastic support of our people. As I have explained on a number of occasions, this policy is neither chauvinistic nor exclusivistic. Nor is it anti-foreign. In fact, foreign business men are welcome in this country so long as they engage in lawful enterprises and they respect our laws. All that the policy seeks is to have our nationals given a dominant position in our economy, for as citizens of this country they should be entitled to this preferential position.

But it is easy to see that this movement for economic freedom will gain force and effect only if it receives the continued all-out support from our people. Without such support, it will sooner or later lapse into desuetude. And so, I can call upon our schools, public and private, to help in enlightening our people on the meaning and importance of this policy as a means of promoting the welfare of our country. Since the private schools have under them more than one-half of our secondary students and most of our college students, theirs is the opportunity as well as the responsibility to impart life and dynamism to this nationalistic policy among the youthful and thinking elements of our people. Political independence can endure only on the granite foundations of economic independence.

A second contribution which our private schools may make is to add to the existing fund of human knowledge. This it can do by conducting scientific studies and investigations. Across the centuries man has been able to move forward because of this continuous efforts to harness the forces of nature to his higher purposes. Goaded by intellectual curiosity or impelled by the imperatives of survival, he has peered into the realm of the unknown in this search for solutions to the problems that beset him at the time. Thus did Newton discover the law of gravitation, Galileo the law of falling bodies, and Enrico Fermi the method of splitting the atom.

Traditionally, it was the university, as a community of masters and mature scholars, which assumed this function-of adding new knowledge and pushing outward its frontiers: Because of the exigencies of modern life, other entities, such as the research departments of manufacturing firms, have shared this work with the universities, especially in the area of practical application of scientific principles. Our universities in this country have in the main been teaching institutions to transmit knowledge. However, the time has come for the universities to broaden their sphere of action so as to include, besides the transmission of knowledge, the creation, the deepening and expansion of knowledge. I can state emphatically that in this great field of university function our private universities have a signal opportunity to make a notable contribution to the welfare and prosperity of the nation. They would do well, therefore, not only to take advantage of the grants given by the National Science Development Board to research workers with meritorious research projects, but more importantly, to establish and equip their own adequate laboratories for research and scientific explorations.

There should be no dearth of problems in this country for the diligent worker to investigate. For instance, in agriculture, our scientists could direct their genius to the discovery of ways of making our country more than self-sufficient in food by developing new high-yielding varieties of rice and corn through plant breeding, by a more effective control of pests and diseases, and by scientific soil analysis and judicious application of fertilizers. They can also study how we can improve our production of livestock. Then, too, there is the dreaded *kadangkadang* of the coconut and the mosaic of abaca which should be controlled or eradicated if our copra and abaca industries are to survive.

In industry, the subjects for investigation are inexhaustible. For one thing, there is the search for possible sources of paper pulp out of local materials so that we would not have to depend upon other countries for our supply of paper. For another thing, we need to discover how we can utilize the by-products and wastes of farming as well as of industrial processing. Thus, it has been found that *bagasse* can be made into newsprint. Further research is needed to find other uses of this material, which today is merely going to waste. Research is also needed to discover how to get the full value of the timber that is removed from our forests. It has been estimated that about 75 per cent of the wood that is cut is lost in the different operations necessary to convert it into a finished product that can be placed on the market. To put it in another way, three fourths of the timber is wasted. Science should tell us how this waste can be made into pulp, paper, wallboard, and other products that have cash value. Other industrial uses of sugar, coconut, abaca, ramie and other fibers, tobacco, and thousands of medicinal plants should be discovered in these laboratories and experimental institutions.

But science alone will not save the world. In fact, it can be a double-edged weapon. It can be an instrument for good or for evil. It can be a boon to mankind or it can be used to wipe out our civilization. The key to the world's continued well-being lies in the proper orientation of the youth. In this our private schools can make an outstanding contribution. They can shape the ideals and attitudes of our young people so that they will accept the moral and spiritual values that have guided the thinking and actions of our forebears. It is a matter for regret that many of the customs and folkways of our people are showing signs of weakening. Family solidarity has loosened up considerably; filial and religious duties are less observed. Take the time-honored national trait of honesty. According to a Chinese writer in the thirteenth century, our ancestors used to get goods on credit without receipts from the Chinese traders and then pay their obligations upon the return of the latter. Today I wonder if that can be said of our people. But today this trait seems to be giving away to evasion and opportunism. This attitude has even crept into the minds of some people in the government service, and so we are today waging an unrelenting war against this evil. Since I assumed the presidency of our Republic, about 22,000 administrative cases have been initiated against officials and employees of the government. Those found guilty have been meted out the corresponding punishments regardless of whether they are "big fishes or small fries." Bribery has become a one-way traffic when the taker is pilloried by public opinion but the giver is idolized by, and lionized in, society. There are even self-styled reformers who would make the President assume responsibility for all the crimes and corruptions committed during his term. In which cases men become morally and legally irresponsible who feel free to commit any crime or corruption knowing that some one else will go to jail or to hell for his misdeeds.

But these actions are, at best, merely punitive and remedial. What is needed is a more positive approach to the problem, one that will so condition the minds of our young people that they will of their own accord do the right thing and will not even think of doing anything that would be either legally or morally wrong while they are serving the people. Now, it must be admitted that the best time to do this is during the early years of life when the minds of the youth are still pliant and impressionable. It is for this reason that the private schools are in a strategic position to imbue their students with the highest ideals of conduct and behavior. And this is the reason why in my last message to Congress I urged the broadening of curricular freedom in private institutions so as to permit educational diversity within educational unity.

Lastly, our universities have the responsibility of preparing the leadership of the nation. In all areas of human endeavor—government, business, industry, education, or agriculture—the need is for competent, resourceful, imaginative, and upright leaders, if our country is to continue to make progress. But since all but one of our universities are under private initiative, you have the rare opportunity to do your part in this task. I challenge you to take full advantage of that opportunity.

In conclusion, I wish to congratulate you on the accomplishments you have made so far. I also wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart that you have collaborated wholeheartedly in the educational efforts of my administration. It is because of these integrated efforts of our government and private institutions that now the Philippines can justly claim to have the best educational system among all the countries on the entire continent of Asia. On the basis of these accomplishments resulting from the cooperation and team work between my administration and you, I find new inspiration and resurging determination to continue steering the Ship of State, should that be the mandate of the Filipino people in the forthcoming election. (Applause) I am pleased to see you putting your heads together in an effort to find the answers to the various questions that are being raised in connection with the upgrading and updating of our private schools. You have convened here not merely as heads of

universities and colleges but as nation builders determined to build the House of the Nation upon a rock. “And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.”

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1961). Speech of President Garcia at the opening of the Convention of the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities, held at the Pines Hotel, Baguio, Thursday morning, February 16, 1961. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57(10), 1746-1751.

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia on the 60th anniversary of the National University**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
On the 60th anniversary of the National University**

[Delivered at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club, February 18, 1961]

FELLOW ALUMNI OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

IT IS not often that one finds an opportunity like this to come together with old friends and, in their familiar faces, look back to precious days in the past. For me, this is such an opportunity, and I hope you know that I am sincere when I tell you that I had long hoped to find it. No one ever departs from the past, nor surpasses his memories. Again and again we return to these in spirit, reliving joys and even tribulations, finding in them a new spur to the future. And today, we bring to this, happy occasion both spiritual and physical presence, old selves and new, in such a reunion and homecoming as we have individually wished for many times. By so doing, we add one more happy memory to the many that we have treasured as alumni of a great institution.

As it happens, not all of us have met before, in this school or outside it. But it is the virtue of this occasion that, not having met everyone else who is present at this gathering today, we are nevertheless old friends. For this institution is our common memory, the great bond that holds us and make us kin. Whatever separate experiences we may remember having had in the classrooms and on the corridors of this institution, the values that the National University had taught us to live by in our midst a lasting presence, an enduring bond.

Along with the country, and often in front of it, this great school has grown with every year. It is a source of common pride to us all that the alumni of this university have not merely contributed to the country's advancement in many fields—a sufficient accomplishment by itself if there was nothing more—but they have also often led and, in the case of many who have represented us well, excelled in providing the spirit and the means for such advancement.

Let no one bewail the quiet way in which we have, from the portals of this institution, gone out into the affairs of this nation to perform large and small tasks to enhance human dignity and welfare in this part of the world. For they make a dismal error who wish to measure deeds by their lustre and their sound. One of the fundamental values that we took with us into the world, not so much a gift as a prerequisite of this university, was the loftiness of honest and sincere and quiet endeavor.

In the world we live in, there are not a few to whom this value has been lost. With hope and conviction, I can say that this university prepared us to resist the temptation of that hasty measure. I know that we learned our lessons well; it is this which has made it possible for many of us to tell in silence, even in anonymity, knowing that citations and applause and the hosannas of the crowds do not constitute the ends of labor.

It is also for this reason that today we have in the service of the government leaders of thought and action who have been willing to continue, with or without public acclaim, in their chosen careers. The field of education today is so much richer and nobler because of the quiet dignity and the dedication which one of our outstanding alumni has brought into it.

The National University has also contributed immensely if, happily, without flourish and invitations to acclaim, to the fields of education itself, the judiciary, the armed forces, private business, and journalism. It is a record we may well be proud of, and for which this occasion today is doubly happy and significant. The National University can claim a glorious past, and a more glorious future.

Nation-building, however, is a continuing labor. No matter what achievements are made, and no matter what heights are reached, there is always a fresh challenge for individual men and for the nation. Every day is a crisis; there will always be a problem of moving on, and of maintaining the successes we have made. The challenge will take many forms: a challenge to fortitude, to imagination, to the sense of justice and the sense of compassion. And each of these challenges is not a separate one, but part of a whole—the single, large challenge to the human spirit itself, and its resources of virtue and ideals.

This is the challenge to which the alumni of a university dedicated to the improvement of the human spirit and the advancement of man's mind can address itself. It is a humbling challenge, and it is well that it is so. For no one may rightly claim that he is bigger than his task, and I think we, who were told to take that to heart many years ago in the classrooms of this university, are prepared to meet our tasks with humility and, if need be, with self-effacement.

One theme I have repeatedly stated in my speeches is the national goal of economic emancipation. This is a national objective that cannot be over-emphasized, a necessity for national survival that cannot be over-stressed. In my previous speeches, I have dwelt on this target as the logical successor of the one, already attained, by our people, of political independence, and as the only way to steer our nation towards a happy and prosperous existence.

Tonight, I will dwell on this theme again but from a different light, from the light that gives urgency to the attainment of the goal. I will dwell tonight on the subject of economic emancipation from the light of the communist menace.

In my report on the state of the nation to Congress and to our people last month, I said that recent developments and the perceivable trend of possibilities indicate that the problem which Communist China poses to the security of our area might assume a new proportion. Reports emanating from the countries adjacent to, as well as from, Red China itself confirm the launching of a massive economic offensive aimed at subverting the economies of the various countries in this region. The physical device for this economic offensive is the dumping of cheap goods in the target countries. These goods are cheap because they are produced by slave labor, cheap because being political instruments of subversion they are sold at prices way below production costs, and cheap because they are exported without regard to shortages at home. Dumped in sufficient quantities in any country, these goods would be enough to disrupt and dislocate local economies. The physical threat of this dumping to local economies is real and imminent enough.

But more significant to the free world is the propaganda line inherent in the move. This propaganda line appears effective because it is apparently clothed in the guise of subtle example. This propaganda line has been repeated over and over again by the communists over the last five years and is aimed directly at the newly emergent and underdeveloped states of the world. In brief, they want to tell us that communism as an alternative to the democratic way of free enterprise is a faster and surer way towards economic advancement. This is the attractive hook that they are dangling before the Underdeveloped nations of the world from their arsenal of alternating threats and charms. At what cost in human dignity, family degradation, and curtailment of civil liberties these dubious claims have been accomplished, we can only surmise but perhaps will never know completely.

This is the challenge to the free world, the challenge to the newly emergent nations, the challenge to all men who love freedom—can a free society in a free state solve the problems of economic stability and social justice for its people or must that free society surrender its freedom to an elite clique without scruples which will then, through repression and harassment force the people into the acceptance of nebulous economic theories of their own making?

We in the Philippines are committed to democracy as a way of life, to republicanism as a form of government, and to the basic freedom as the touchstone of existence. We must show the less fortunate among our people that within this framework we can achieve for them the promised economic benefits so temptingly held out to them by

communism. “Man does not live by bread alone” but as a philosopher observed in a serio-flippant mood, “neither can he live without it.”

I have committed my administration to the lifting of the economic level in which the mass of our people live. I want to show our people and the whole world that ours is a free society where free man can lift themselves from economic underdevelopment into the plateau of progress and prosperity.

For this reason, very early in my administration I launched our program of agro-industrial development in order that the increased production of an industrialized society may benefit our people. My Filipino First policy was designed and is being pursued with vigor in order to wrest the stranglehold on our economy from aliens and their dummies. My campaign against graft in the government is likewise being carried out relentlessly in order that this cancer that is gnawing into our body politic may be cut off and checked completely.

We have made outstanding progress in recent years. We have become self-sufficient in rice—our staple food. Our industrial plants have gone beyond the packaging and assembly stage. Our textile production is almost enough to meet local consumption and we import less and less textile by the year. Electrification of the countryside is going on at a fast clip. Even our shipbuilding industry has gone beyond the rudimentary stage having constructed the first truly Philippine-made sea-going vessel. Our rural areas are brightening up with renewed vigor brought about by cottage industries and community development programs. These things alone are a lot more achievement than can be claimed by past administrations put together. But I am the last to claim that these achievements are enough. Rather, I say that these accomplishments of my administration are simply the initial steps in the right direction towards nation-building. Time and again in the past and dangerously in the present, too, our leaders of national importance have been sidetracked from pursuing the rightful destiny of our people by internecine fault-finding and partisan politics. I am proud to say that the record of the Nacionalista Party in the over fifty years of its existence, is an open book to all our people. The Nacionalista Party has adhered to a purpose single to the best interests of the Filipino nation. During the days when other political parties were contented and happy to settle forever in the gilded cage of benevolent colonialism, the Nacionalista Party, alone, and in the beginning a minority, fought for and succeeded in regaining Philippine independence. It was a great and big enough achievement—the winning of political freedom for a freedom-loving people. Political freedom having been won, the Nacionalista Party was to lapse into temporary eclipse by its own splinter which grew into a full fledged party—the Liberal Party. But the Liberal Party missed its chance for greatness by a failure to understand and appreciate the new challenges that faced the independent Republic. Intoxicated with newly won power, its members were side-tracked from the urgent demands of nation-building into the more enjoyable pastime of personal aggrandizement. Thus was made critical the communist problem in the country. A sizeable number of our people drew up arms against the government, not so much because of the attractions offered by communism, but more so because of the repulsion they felt towards the way their government was run.

Again it had to be the Nacionalista Party, this time again starting as a minority, that had to rescue our Ship of State from aimless and directionless wanderings that had to steady and firm the ship and once more set it on the right course towards its destiny under the sun. Today, the clarion call to economic emancipation has been sounded by the Nacionalista Party. It is today's great fight that we must fight today's great battle to which we must commit our forces.

The twentieth century may be divided for the Filipino people into two great epochs. The first half up to 1946 was the epoch of the struggle for independence from a benevolent colonialism; the second half starting with the late fifties is the epoch of grim struggle for economic emancipation. In between these two epochs was a period of wavering and irresolution, of teetering on the brink of progress and regress, a neuter period of non-identity, a sterile period of suspended animation. This was the period of the Liberal regime.

Today our course has been established. Our national identity is once more alive; our purposes have been made clear. I call on you to stand shoulder to shoulder with me to face the common challenge. The call to battle is insistent and may not be ignored. God willing, with your cooperation and the cooperation of all our people, we shall march on to victory.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1961). President's speech on the 60th anniversary of the National University held at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club, Saturday evening, February 18, 1961. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57(10), 1752-1756.



## **Speech of President Garcia at the Traditional President's Night**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the Traditional President's Night sponsored annually by the Manila Overseas Press Club**

[Delivered on February 23, 1961]

THIS annual meeting of the Chief Executive of the nation with the officers, members, and guests of the Manila Overseas Press Club is by now a well established tradition. I have welcomed your invitations in the past because they afford me an excellent opportunity to reach what is perhaps our best informed and most responsive audience on world affairs, the correspondents of the foreign press as well as those members of the local press most concerned with the preparation and dissemination of foreign news. This evening's opportunity is of particular interest for a number of reasons, among them the present state of world tensions and my recent return from a visit with our neighbors and racial kin in Malaya.

Many of you will recall that a little over two years ago, speaking in this very room, I broached the idea of bringing about in this region an association of states which, mostly in the cultural and economic sectors, might explore common areas of interest, common problems, and perhaps avenues of cooperative action for a common good. Shortly afterward we had the pleasure of welcoming among us the Premier of Malaya, Tunku Abdul Rahman, who likewise saw merit in the concept and became one of its most vigorous advocates.

This month a beginning was made, a limited one to be sure, but one holding great promise. In the agreement between the Governments of Thailand, Malaya, and the Philippines to confer on the mechanics of such regional association is the beginning of the kind of understanding and cooperation so essential to the free world in this time of trial.

Before discussing this development more fully, however, it might be useful to sketch briefly the background against which elements of our foreign policy should be viewed.

First, let us examine the current international situation and the nature of the tensions which constitute the crisis of our day.

A great scholar and observer of world affairs makes the significant observation that it is inaccurate to speak of the conflict between the Free World and Communism as a contest of two similar power blocks. He points out that whereas the Communist bloc is a monolithic organism held together by violence and intimidation, such as the Russian tanks in Hungary, the Free World bloc is a voluntary association impelled toward pooling its resources in the interests of collective security only by the threatening pressures of the Communist bloc itself. I think it is also useful to define more sharply the nature of the conflict.

It is a matter of communist doctrine for all to read that the communist revolution will not, indeed *cannot*, stop short of an all communist world. No communist of any stature has as yet repudiated this basic doctrine of international communism. In fact, careful study of their most recent literature establishes conclusively that even the concept of peaceful coexistence is seen by top communists as a temporary lull in armed hostilities during which they may consolidate their gains and prepare for the next violent phase of communist expansion. The present world crisis therefore derives from the Communist Party's continuing attack, by whatever means possible, on *all* non-communist countries, since the continued existence of free societies, of free men, cannot be tolerated within the concept of an all-communist world. Thus, unless we consider surrender to intimidation, the initiative for ending the cold war and averting a hot war rests with the communists— and only the communist.

I think it is also high time that we demolish the distortion heard from some quarters that small nations committed to the Free World bloc are merely pawns fighting the war of the United States in a big power contest with the Soviet Union.

The question has been asked in some quarters, for example, why the Philippines, a small nation, has chosen to take an active part in this decisive world struggle. Our reasons in terms of political and religious belief, of morality and justice, already have been adequately stated. For the benefit of those who claim to be practical realists, however, I think it might be wise to add this further "practical and realistic" reason. The Free World is fighting for a world community ruled by law, the communists, for rule imposed by force. As one of the small nations, a world of laws is our sole hope of stature and dignity. Under a world rule of force we can expect nothing better than national extinction and racial absorption.

There is little need to labor the obvious as to why we accept American leadership in this struggle. The American record for supporting freedom for all peoples is ample endorsement of their motivation and intent. In material resource and tenacity no other nation or combination of nations can claim the contribution already made to the fight, or match the strength and potential of America to sustain it. (In this connection, it is interesting to note that while some commentators go so far as to claim Soviet superiority over the United States, Mr. Khrushchev himself promises his people only that they will catch up with the United States in seven to ten years.)

To summarize up to this point, we may say that until the communist bloc decides to abandon the world revolution, international tensions and conflict, regardless of temporary lulls of peaceful coexistence or peaceful competition, will continue. Further, by the Communist own doctrine, every free society, committed or otherwise, will continue to be a target of whatever weapon is considered appropriate, whether armed aggression, assistance to internal rebellion, economic sabotage, or any of the many forms of subversion. It may also be assumed that America will continue to exercise the leadership and shoulder the major material burden of Free World defense, while her allies gain the strength necessary to tip the balance so decisively that the communists will be discouraged from further pursuing their aggressive expansion.

This brings us to the question of what may now be forecast as to the American posture of Free World leadership under a new administration.

From President Kennedy's pronouncements to date, from those of his major appointees, and from the writings of those known to influence the thinking of the new administration, it is possible to derive at least a preliminary assessment. It now appears likely that there will be no alteration of basic policy and fundamental objectives. In executing policy and pursuing these objectives, however, it may be expected that full advantage will be taken of the opportunity afforded by change to secure a broader area of tactical maneuver, greater flexibility, and variety in the instruments of policy brought to bear. Although for years the United States, almost alone, has carried the burden of military and economic assistance to the recovering and developing nations of the Free World, and today is suffering in some measure from the economic consequences, it appears likely that neither of these programs will be abandoned or drastically reduced. There appears to be some inclination to lean more toward acceleration of economic growth, and it is predictable that, because of economic pressures, both military and economic foreign aid programs will be more sharply scrutinized and more carefully weighed, so that each dollar of investment in Free World strength delivers its maximum yield.

In his Inaugural Address President Kennedy said: "My fellow citizens of the world: Ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man."

What can we do together for the freedom of Man? What can a small nation such as ours do now?

It seems immediately obvious that maximum acceleration of economic growth and technical development serve not only the individual national interest, but also the objective of strengthening the Free World alliance. It is toward this end that we are taking steps toward stimulating both foreign and domestic private investment, expanding and diversifying our pattern of trade and commerce, and developing new credit lines with appropriate nations of the Free World.

Another contribution we can make to the Free World effort, one wholly compatible with the national interest and aspiration, is in the political sector—not alone in terms of maintaining our own domestic stability but even more in terms of the posture and initiative we take in our regional and global international relationships. For example, the consultative conferences held recently in Manila, I believe, established firmly for the information of all concerned the fact that the peoples and governments of this region see the situation in Laos not as a big power contest but as a serious threat to their own peace and security and a manifestation of renewed communist expansionism.

Aside, from the special and significant features of the Free World bloc already mentioned, it should not be forgotten that the Free World, precisely defined, includes the so-called uncommitted nations which nevertheless are as dedicated to the preservation of their own free societies and individual freedom as ours. With these integrity, we have much in common in terms of other problems and aspirations wherein mutual understanding and cooperation can be mutually beneficial.

For the most part, these common problems are characteristic of the developing new nations: Security against external aggressions, internal defense and protection of free institutions, and the acceleration of economic growth and technological development. It is no coincidence certainly that each of these areas is today included in the broadened front of communist attack. As the arms race reaches a point of stalemate, the political and economic sectors grow in importance, and whatever can be done to increase the strength of these sectors in every free nation, regardless of military commitment, is a net gain in terms of Free World security.

This has been the underlying purpose of our determination to broaden the base of our relationship, first with neighboring free societies, and later with those geographically more remote. It would be Utopian to think that in the free association I have described there could be complete agreement in all matters, but it is a characteristic of a democratic community such as the Free World comprises that the individual and the community may seek benefits wherever agreement and cooperation can be achieved.

While on the subject of the small nation—committed, uncommitted, or neutral—we might stop to consider a particular phenomenon of our times—a phenomenon, incidentally, which underscores my earlier emphasis on the fact that it is the small nation that has the greatest stake in realizing a world community accepting the rule of law.

Recently the General Assembly of the United Nations has been augmented by the admission of many new small nations. Small though each may be in resource and limited in experience, each enjoys numerical equality with the oldest and largest in that assembly of nations. The magnitude of the influence these nations acting in concert can wield has been demonstrated and commented upon. Some view the phenomenon with elation, others, with concern. We of the Philippines, ourselves a small nation, experience both reactions. We are elated to have this confirmation of our most fundamental foreign policy outlook, but we are concerned that this power of small states, unique in mankind's history, not be lost or destroyed by abuse.

We must never lose sight of the fact that the power exists only by virtue of the organization in which it is exercised, the United Nations. This organization itself will exist only so long as it honestly and impartially reflects the intent of its charter, only so long as each member feels that its decisions and judgments are the result of sober and honest deliberation. The intrusion of petty or sordid motives, of ancient grudges or racial bias, could bring about the destruction of what the world has so painfully tried to restore since the tragic collapse of the League of Nations.

Before concluding, there is one other aspect of the Administration's foreign policy I should like to clarify. Our determination to withhold recognition from nations of the Communist bloc has been questioned as being more rigid than that of the United States. "More Popish than the Pope"—is one of the flippant criticisms.

In the first place, it should be pointed out that the Free World alliance by its very nature does not impose rigid conformity of policy upon each of its members. For its own reasons, the United States recognizes the Soviet Union and sits with its representatives in the United Nations. We have avoided such diplomatic relations without impairing our UN participation. Should Red China shoot its way into the United Nations, or even negotiate formal relations with the United States, we see no reason why either development need influence our own policy which is based upon considerations of practical self-interest. In terms of trade, we certainly have not so thoroughly exhausted the

markets of the Free World as to turn in desperation to those of the Communist bloc As for diplomatic convenience, we as “Whose?” All too vivid is the experience of many of our neighbors warning us of the tremendous burden that would be placed upon our security services should we permit an influx of hordes of spies, propagandists, and professional saboteurs, working from the protection of a diplomatic sanctuary in our very midst.

This then, in summary, is our position. The clash between world communism and free societies is not of our choosing and not subject to our evasion. We believe that the only way to avert war, or win it if it is forced upon us, is by a pooling of *all* Free World strength in *every* sector; that weakness or disunity can serve only to invite aggression or piecemeal capture. For ourselves we choose active participation. In the case of those of our Free World neighbors and friends who choose otherwise we are prepared to respect their freedom of choice, developing our relations with them in any or all of other constructive categories of democratic activity mutually acceptable.

Contrary to Marxist dogma, we hold that tyranny—not the free society—carries within it the seeds of its own destruction. We believe, too, that the urge toward freedom is one of the strongest instincts, a divine endowment of all living things—including the people of Russia and Communist China. Therefore, the longer the Free World can maintain and widen the margin of deterrence, the closer we come to peace with justice and freedom for all mankind.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1961). Speech of President Garcia at the Traditional President’s Night sponsored annually by the Manila Overseas Press Club, Thursday, February 23, 1961. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57(12), 2117-2123.

**Speech of President Garcia at the Closing Plenary Session of the 8th National Convention of Producers and Manufacturers**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the Closing Plenary Session of the 8th National Convention of Producers and Manufacturers**

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, February 24, 1961]

MR.  
INDUSTRIALISTS AND FRIENDS:

CHAIRMAN,

IT IS a distinct pleasure to join you again in celebrating Philippine Industry and Nepa Week. The present occasion assumes added significance as we enter this year into the threshold of a new decade. The sixties present a continuing challenge to the ability of Philippine industry to sustain, solidify, and enhance its economic gains in a new era of decontrol. The sixties present as well a fresh and bolder challenge to Filipino enterprise to venture forth into new directions and make its influence keenly felt in all the vital sectors of our nation's economy;

As you—and I—contemplate these challenges, we pause today and look back at the decade behind us. They have been trying years, difficult years. But out of the crucible of experience, we have emerged strengthened in mettle and steadfast in faith in ourselves. From the trials and tribulations that we have gone through, we derive increased inspiration to push onward in our efforts to secure economic self-sufficiency for our people.

Your exhibits during this celebration are commendable. Indeed they vividly and dramatically portray the progress of Philippine industry, and its important role in our struggle for economic independence and growth. It is most heartening to see so many products, which we used to import, now manufactured in commercial scale in our country, by our countrymen to supply the needs of our people. Steel, cement and chemical products, batteries, household and office appliances, textiles, glass pulp and paper, pencil, preserved foods, drugs, and medicines—to name only a few—are tangible evidence of such progress.

Statistics show that manufacturing industries now contribute about 17 per cent of our gross national product. This reflects a tremendous increase of more than 100 per cent in ten years. I am told that such a rate of growth compares favorably with that achieved by highly-industrialized Japan during a similar transitional stage.

All these achievements of Philippine industry would not have been possible without the energetic and able participation of private enterprise. It is this group of versatile pioneers whose imagination, technical skills, managerial know-how, and enterprising spirit gave birth to numerous factories, laboratories and shops throughout the land. Permit me to acknowledge, publicly your invaluable contribution to the economic well-being of our people, and to congratulate you all for work well done.

The past decade was characterized largely by the imposition and maintenance of economic controls. You are well aware that the Government was constrained to adopt such restrictive measures in order to protect our international reserves against dissipation, to contain inflationary pressures, and to channel our scarce resources to productive and essential endeavors. Despite the unpleasantness which attended the administration of these controls, the fact remains that they furnished the stimuli and the climate for private initiative and enterprise to participate actively in the formation of new and necessary industries and increase the output of goods and services.

Controls, however, merely provided the negative factor. It was the positive and creative efforts of entrepreneurs, represented by the leaders of industry now gathered in this hall, which pushed the gradual shift of our economy from a purely agricultural to a more balanced agro-industrial nature.

The task of securing a viable and progressive economy and of securing control of its vital sectors in the hands of our citizens, however, is far from ended. The imminent lifting of exchange controls ushers in a new era which will require more of your energies, your dedication and your self-reliance. The ability of businessmen and industrialists to adjust their operations to new situation and to cope with the complex and varied problems will be subjected to more severe tests and stresses.

But so long as the country has men and women of your caliber and propulsions, I sanguinely believe that, regardless of problems and vexations, Philippine industry will continue to march to new heights of success.

You are well aware that controls were not designed to last indefinitely. While they were necessary instruments to restore equilibrium to our economy, they were not intended to supplant private initiative and enterprise as the enduring basis of our economic development. For if we are to attain our goal of economic independence, it is essential that our domestic enterprise should be able, eventually, to compete in the market on their own strength without the artificial props of government controls.

It was with these considerations in mind that a gradual decontrol program was started last April 1960 and the second phase realized last November. The improved fiscal and international reserve positions of the economy since then have made realizable the full lifting of exchange controls probably towards the end of this year.

I am cognizant of the problems which Philippine industry faces with the advent of full exchange decontrol. The Administration is as much concerned with this problems as you who are in the frontlines of industry.

The problem of protection against unfair competition from imported products becomes paramount once the shield of exchange control is withdrawn from our young industries. Foreign capital, if allowed freely to avail of their vast financial and technical resources here and abroad, could stunt the growth of native enterprises and even drive them out of business. The increased costs of imported raw materials and other components would result in higher production and operating costs of those industries which have been enjoying the preferred rate of exchange. The consequent higher peso requirements will be harder and more expensive to secure.

Your apprehensions on the plight and future of Philippine industry under unequal competition are not without reason.

Let me assure you, however, my friends, that, as far as the authority of my office is concerned, I shall permit the total lifting of exchange controls only if there are adequate safeguards to protect Philippine industry and Filipino enterprise. As long as I have the people's trust, I shall avail of the authority of my office to prevent the collapse or failure of this major segment of our economy.

The Administration is taking steps in this direction.

It is my intention to utilize the tariff instrument to give protection to domestic producers in harmony with the needs of external trade. I have directed a top-level study of this matter, and the detailed recommendations are being submitted to Congress for the appropriate action to revise the Tariff and Customs Code. If need be, I shall avail of the authority under the flexible tariff clause when Congress is in session to adjust tariff rates in accordance with the requirements of the economy.

Ways and means are being seriously considered to alleviate the financing problems of domestic and Filipino enterprises. I have already endorsed to Congress (1) the grant of full exemption from taxes and duties on the fixed capital requirements of basic industries in order to lighten the burden incident to the establishment of such new ventures; (2) encouragement of investment houses as distinct from mutual funds; (3) suspension of the capital gains tax provided that the proceeds are invested in production; and (4) passage of other assistance measures to improve the position of Filipino firms resulting from capital structure and to provide incentives to investors. The Administration is studying plans to channel government credit resources towards medium and long-term needs and to adopt a preferential income tax rate on dividends which will make corporate stocks more attractive investments.

On the sectoral basis, I have urged (1) to amend the mining, petroleum, and corporation laws to enable the mining industries to develop fully; (2) to appropriate ₱35 million for next fiscal year for cementing national highways in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, in order not only to improve these main arteries of our economic and social life but also to absorb the excess production of local cement industries; (3) to provide for the systematic development of the vast resources of Mindanao; and (4) to amend the NASSCO charter so as to enable private enterprise to participate actively in the vital integrated steel project in Lanao.

To enhance the administrative climate, I have recommended to our lawmakers the centralization of governmental function with service businessmen and industrialists. The Administration is prosecuting with greater vigor a determined campaign to weed out corrupting influences and attain a higher level of integrity in the public service. On the positive side, we have been undertaking a comprehensive program to improve management of the public business on various echelons.

There is urgent need for the passage of a well-conceived foreign investment law. This should define the fields of investment in our country which are open to foreign investors and the terms and conditions under which they may operate. Aside from assuring our foreign friends of the safety of their investments and the opportunities to be made available to them, such a law would likewise assure Filipino enterprises of their national patrimony.

I have repeatedly stated that we welcome friendly foreign investments. On joint venture basis we welcome them to join our citizens in the gigantic undertaking of building up the economic structure of our Republic. But we reserve and assert the legitimate rights of our people to preferential treatment by our own government in our own country.

Under the Filipino First policy, it is the duty of our government to assist its nationals in developing into positions of strength which will enable them to compete on equal terms with others. For free enterprise to be really free, the competitors should be of even strength. The outcome is determined by their ingenuity to mobilize and manage their resources and to make the right decisions.

Over the past decades our government has been generous in its treatment of foreign investments. Our people granted parity rights to our American friends. These are in line with our renowned Filipino hospitality and gratefulness. But with all these notwithstanding, we have embarked on an economic nationalistic program, otherwise called the Filipino First policy, with the objective of regaining for ourselves dominance in our own economic household.

My friends, the pathways before you are beset with problems. The Administration will face them together with you. There are obstacles to hurdle; this Administration will assist you in hurdling them.

For economic development in a democratic society such as ours is a joint venture between the state and the citizens. The problems of the private sector are the problems of the public sector.

The role of the government is to point the way, to pioneer, to provide the favorable climate and the basic tools. And private enterprise is expected to carry on from there, to generate and draw upon its own resources, to undertake its elected tasks in the production and marketing of economic goods.

The challenge of the sixties, my friends, is before you. It beckons to Philippine industry to march forward into new directions. Will it be the soaring sixties, or the sorry sixties? We in the Administration like to believe that the decade of the sixties is the decade of bigger achievements in all fronts of endeavor, more especially in economics and industries. We like to believe that we will expand on accelerated tempo the nation's creative efforts so that we may create and produce the things that give us more abundant life.

The Filipino industrialists, manufacturers, and executives, I know, will rise equal to the challenge of the time.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1961). President Garcia's speech at the Closing Plenary Session, 8th National Convention of Producers and Manufacturers held at the Manila Hotel, February 24, 1961. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57(10), 1757-1761.



**Speech of President Garcia at the First National Convention of Puericulture Centers Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the First National Convention of Puericulture Centers**

[Delivered at the San Sebastian College Auditorium, February 25, 1961]

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Nothing gives me a deeper and truer pleasure than to be with a gathering such as this which is representative of so many provinces from all over the country, I know that I am addressing a group that does its apostolate principally among our poor. I am keenly aware of the fact that what specially distinguishes this group is its constant and unselfish dedication to the needs of our mothers and children. I know for a fact that if there is any one organization in any locality or town whose services are greatly availed of by our people, it is the puericulture center. Next to the parish church in a town, a puericulture center is the daily Mecca of our people. It stands out as a beacon for the poor and the needy. It is also a constant reminder that the government is ever ready to cater to the needs of our less fortunate countrymen. It heartens me very much to see with how much faith and trust our poor people especially avail themselves of puericulture services. This is therefore my way of saying that you have so nobly conducted yourselves in the daily performance of your duties, such that you have won completely the confidence of our people. Such trust and confidence, so rarely given especially by our poor, therefore becomes their testimonial of faith in you. This is the highest award that can honor public servants like us. To you gathered here therefore I pay this tribute of faith in the name of the millions of grateful Filipinos you serve.

I am, indeed, deeply grateful to have been asked to be with you, for today we are also honoring an event we can be rightly proud of—the 48th anniversary of the puericulture movement in the Philippines and the first national convention of puericulture centers. It is to me highly significant that for the 48 years of our puericulture center history, it is only now that we have all gathered together at this first national convention. This fact could mean two things: it could mean that most of you assigned in different areas throughout our country have had little sense of oneness—each of your units being an independent entity in itself. It could also mean that having been so deeply absorbed in your work, you have not given serious thought to work for the organization and coordination of work on the national level as this convention demonstrates. I am more inclined to think the second reason is the truer reason. This 48th anniversary of the puericulture center movement affords us the rare opportunity to look back through the years and thus trace the growth of a human institution, and in the process we unfold the long years of dedicated service of generations of men who believe in certain lofty ideals. For a human institution, like the puericulture movement, is a commitment to service to, and love for, one's fellowmen that can only survive through the years, as long as there are people who believe in its ideals and who live such ideals selflessly and generously.

It has been often said that the state of a nation's culture is measured by the amount of care and respect it pays to the youngest of its race. It should be a great source of pride to us that our country has highly distinguished itself in its assiduous humanitarian concern for nursing mothers and infants. We can be rightly proud that our country has had a long and continuous history of a systematic program of maternal and child welfare. This is of course reflective of our primal dedication—the Filipino home. In an era that has acquired a new if sophisticated fright of a population explosion, we have kept intact as a people our deep concern for the care of our young. In an age when either human carnage, labor camps, or automation threatens, to make human life what Thomas Hood the poet laments:

*O that bread should be so dear  
And flesh and blood so cheap",*

it is very reassuring indeed for us to realize that we have kept our values right. It honors us, that as a people, we still deeply believe that human life is truly a blessed gift from God, and that a mother is a sacred being entrusted with the Creator's gift of a child. It is this *beautiful reverence for life* that truly demonstrates our Christian heritage. A nation that has not lost its reverence for life shall never know a debasement of soul.

Forty-eight years of the puericulture center movement demonstrates this very high value we put on human life. The future of our race is assured by the healthful conditions we provide for maternal and child welfare. This is the wiser economy to insure a nation's progress in its manpower.

And yet this systematic program of our puericulture centers was not the product of two or five years or ten years. Consider briefly the long, continuous, and systematic history of our country's attempts to insure child welfare. The earliest evidence of child welfare work in our country was the foundation during the Spanish regime of the Hospicio de San Jose. The mortality rate in the country during the early years of the American regime was 30 per cent, meaning 300 deaths for every thousand births. As a result of this, Congress in 1912 sought to investigate the causes of high infant mortality. In a nutshell, consider the progress achieved from the time that the first puericulture center was organized in Tondo in 1917 and for which was made in appropriation of ₱7,000 until the present. By the end of 1917 there were 21 puericulture centers; and by 1957 these had become 513. Today there are 571 such centers throughout our country spending ₱1,324,000.00 of which the government has spent ₱850,000.00 and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office has spent ₱474,000.00 last year. This should help emphasize that our health authorities, lawmakers, social workers, and civic-spirited citizens have been faithful to their vision of a stronger Filipino race.

The sustained interest in spreading the benefits of the puericulture centers can be seen in the series of Congressional Acts that have given direction, to and support of, the program. The Osmena Bill saw the establishment of 21 puericulture centers; the legislative enactment in 1921 transferring the duties related to maternity, child hygiene, and welfare to the Public Welfare Commissioner; the Congress Act of 1933 transferring puericulture center work to the Bureau of Health; the Ochoa Bill or Act No. 704 providing for the establishment of municipal maternity and charity clinics in municipalities having less than 8,000 population—all these have been thoughtful legislations designed to serve the needs of our people. When finally in 1947 another reorganization placed the puericulture centers and municipal maternity and charity clinics in the Bureau of Hospitals of the Department of Health, the creation of a section of Puericulture Centers in the Bureau of Hospitals definitely recognized the expanded status of our program. It can be a source of pride that our legislators have recognized the importance of puericulture services. The WHO-UNICEF program of assistance also helped greatly in the expansion work of puericulture centers. And finally, let me say that the role of our private civic-spirited citizens, and you in your own faith in, and loyalty to this movement, have provided the mainstay of this movement.

We have set our sights high and we hope to achieve the ideal with the establishment of a puericulture center in every town and city throughout our fair land. This ambitious program will need 683 more centers. If it took us 48 years to establish 517 puericulture centers, I assure you that it will take us only half that long to put many centers we still need. I pledge my administration to pursue this program relentlessly. This is a crying need of our people. The rich can always pay for their medical services. But our people in our many towns and remote barrios, and even our poor here in Manila, have only our puericulture centers where they can go to for their treatment.

But aside from such direct medical services to mothers, children, and the ailing, let us strive to make our puericulture centers an educational and preventive institution, even as it is necessarily a remedial institution. With greater foresight and fully sensitive to the educational needs of our nursing mothers especially, we can make our puericulture centers an educational and cultural center. Let us plan out programs of lectures, demonstrations, listening hours that can help stimulate the thinking of the people we serve. I am sure much has been done along this line and this is the reason why you have won our people's trust and confidence. Let us constantly aim to preserve for our people their sense of human dignity. Let us help them see that we public servants are out to help them let us make them see that it is the taxes they pay and their faith in us that enable them to have such free services as we can give. In short, let us make them see that they are an honorable people even as they partake of the government's charitable services. I plead to you to make our institutionalized charity work gentle, humane, and truly charitable.

This is the Christianity that we bring into our work that is over and above the call of duty. And because I know that this is truly the spirit with which you discharge your obligations, I humbly come to honor you and to convey to you the gratitude of the government and our people for the zeal and dedication with which you have carried on at your noble tasks all these years.

On my part I can only reiterate my full support of all your programs. I shall do all I can to help make your work more effective. This is a good occasion—your 48th anniversary and your first national convention—to pledge

ourselves mutually committed to do all we can to assure our country of generations and generations of robust Filipinos who shall carry on the traditions of our race, who shall preserve the honor of our people, and who shall constantly aspire for the glory of this Christian nation, small but brave and honorable.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1961). President Garcia's speech at the First National Convention of Puericulture Centers held at the San Sebastian College Auditorium on February 25, 1961. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57(10), 1762-1765.

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia at the closing of the YMCA Golden Jubilee**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the closing of the YMCA Golden Jubilee**

[Delivered at the YMCA Youth Center, February 26, 1961]

MY YMCA FRIENDS:

THERE is a ritual which couples who observe the golden anniversary of their union go through. They hie back to the church of their choice and in that solemn site where they first pronounced their troth fifty years back they pronounce anew their promises to each other. This is an occasion always tinged with joy and pride and sorrow. The fruits of the union are there to give meaning to the event—sons and daughters who have become pillars of the community; grandchildren, already pursuing useful and purposeful careers; great-grandchildren, still carefree, still noisy and naughty, still undergoing the long educative process to prepare their latent talents for adult life, still not realizing the full significance of the event but awed and mystified nevertheless at the simultaneous laughter and tear shedding going on. It is a moving and meaningful sight, this golden anniversary of the marriage bonds; it is a testaments to the continuity of the human race; it is the ultimate proof of the indestructibility of man. But there is sorrow, too. Flesh is mortal and the young, even as they rejoice, realize that the old must soon go to the great beyond, with pride at a task well done, yes, but go anyway, they must for eternal repose. I have yet to hear a couple celebrating the centennial of their wedding. It is at this point that I must draw the difference between the golden anniversary of the YMCA of the Philippines that we are celebrating today and that of the golden wedding anniversary of a couple. Whereas a golden wedding anniversary, significant and meaningful as it is, is a testament to a job well-done and to energies well-spent, it also is a milestone from which the couple must, henceforth sally at a leisurely pace along memory lane. The job is done and the rest is—rest.

Not for the YMCA. For as we celebrate today the Philippine YMCA's fiftieth year, I see around me evidences of youth and youthfulness, evidences not only of energies well-spent but of vitality still surging and yet still burgeoning, evidences of vigor and vision that have already started planning and working for a successful and more fruitful hendredth year.

I have been an eyewitness to the enduring purpose and amazing growth of the YMCA of the Philippines. As a young student I boarded at the Student Y which was destroyed during the war, had since been rebuilt, and stands today at the same site as the Youth Center. I often played chess in YMCA recreation halls. Six years ago when I was Vice-President, I spoke before you in the very hall on the occasion of the YMCA's fourty-fourth anniversary. I said then, "The YMCA has been an active participant in the national effort to increase production and improve the lot of the common people. It has interested itself in the effort of the present administration of President Magsaysay to restore the people's faith and confidence in the government. It has always stood for social justice. It has consistently fought that the four fundamental freedoms may be enjoyed by the minorities and the majorities on the basis of equality and liberty. It has always stood for, and in many ways exemplified, an education of self-reliance and sell confidence and rugged individualism that would minimize the growing tendency of too much dependence upon the government. It has been one of the indefatigable advocates of the merit system in the civil service as well as in free enterprise. It has always stood for planning and programming in all collective efforts for the building up of an honest, efficient, and economical government. On the basis of this record, the YMCA fully deserves every congratulation that it receives."

As if these things are not enough, the YMCA during its first fifty years—

- (1) introduced organized physical and health education in the Philippines, including the YMCA-invented game of basketball, which has since become the national pastime, some wags will say, next to politics;
- (2) pioneered in student and group conferences, boys camps, Boy Scouting, leadership training, and citizenship building programs;
- (3) pioneered in and organized community service work in the slums;
- (4) provide and stayed at the forefront of civilian relief for prisoners of war, displaced veterans, war widows and orphans, and stranded students during the depressing and dangerous period of the war years; and
- (5) embarked on a program of rural reconstruction even ahead of, and afterwards side by side with, the government's own rural improvement program.

This last phase of YMCA work received world reknown and acclaim when an American magazine of international circulation (The Reader's Digest) devoted a special six-page article in 1957 to extolling the effectiveness in Philippine nation-building of YMCA works and programmes.

But to my mind, over and above these major and significant achievements which seem unerringly to meet the changing challenge of the times, there is one for which I personally and officially take pride in, one for which I here publicly express my congratulations to the men of vision behind the Philippine YMCA movement. This achievement, another one of its firsts in the YMCA movement in the whole of the Asian region, is its present ability to stand on its own two feet, independent of support and assistance in terms of funds and personnel from its mother institution, the YMCA's of the United States and Canada.

This is a truly noteworthy achievement in the task of institution building—the acquisition of a truly independent posture. It is this truly independent posture, which in the task of nation-building, we have yet to achieve in our economic development. It is to this economic independence that I have committed my administration and to which I am now devoting my energies.

For this reason, very early in my administration I launched our program of agro-industrial development in order that the increased production of an industrialized society may benefit our people. My Filipino First policy was designed and is being pursued with vigor in order to wrest the strangle-hold on our economy from aliens and their dummies. My campaign against graft in the government is likewise being carried out relentlessly in order that this cancer that is gnawing into our body politic may be cut off and checked completely.

We have made outstanding progress in recent years. We have become self-sufficient in rice—our staple food. Our industrial plants have gone beyond the packaging and assembly stage. Our textile production is almost enough to meet local consumption and we import less and less textile by the year. Electrification of the countryside is going on at a fast clip. Even our shipbuilding industry has gone beyond the rudimentary stage, having constructed the first truly Philippine-made sea-going vessel. Our rural areas are brightening up with renewed vigor brought about by cottage industries and community development programs. These things alone are a lot more achievement than can be claimed by past administrations put together. But I am the last to claim, that these achievements are enough. Rather I say that these accomplishments of my administration are simply the initial steps in the right direction towards nation-building.

What is this direction towards which we are heading? What is the objective for which we are fighting? What is the nation's purpose?

Our Malayan ancestors came to this beautiful bountiful land in the dawn of our history in search of peace and freedom from a tyrannical ruler. They found it here for a long, long time until superior weapons forced upon them a new kind of tyranny from the West. The cannon and the sword of this new tyranny, however, did riot kill our love for freedom nor our desire for freedom nor our desire for peace. And so we rose again and again; defeat never fazed

us, nor cowed us to submission until at last we realized the dream of three hundred years, the emergence of a new nation, the first republic to be proclaimed in the whole of Asia. This was in 1898, a time when more so than today, the field of international relations was a jungle ruled by the mighty and the strong; when, as it is to some extent today, the fate of the small and the weak was decided by the big and the powerful. Spain, having lost control and possession of the Philippines to the successful Filipino revolutionists, saw one last chance at profit and literally sold the country to the United States with whom she was at war in Cuba. We had to defend our newly-won freedom and the Philippine-American war was fought with the inevitable result—the defeat of the weak by the strong.

The United States, however, turned out to be a totally different kind of colonizer than Spain was. Magnanimous in victory, she made sincere efforts at rehabilitating the prostrate land, introduced government sponsored sanitation and health programs to eradicate tropical diseases, set-up the universal public school system, and laid the groundwork for the speedy Filipinization of the government. Our people multiplied and business flourished under the protection of free trade with the United States. There was peace and prosperity and for a time contentment. Indeed some of our national leaders at the time thought that perhaps the best course for the country was to stay forever in the gilded case of American colonialism; but it is a tribute to our nation's innate love for freedom that this benevolent colonialism did not blunt our national desire to be free. And so we fought again, this time not with arms but with persuasion, and again we won.

Today we are politically free. But freedom, we have found out, brings with it a host of problems, not the least of which is its maintenance and preservation.

Our population has quadrupled since the turn of the century. Our national production has not kept pace with this growth fast enough to afford all our citizens the bare necessities of life. Time was when our population was small enough so that the bounty of nature sufficed to give everyone a comfortable life. At -the rate that we are increasing, however, only a most careful husbanding and utilization of our natural resources would allow us to give to every man his share.

This is my covenant to our people. I will exert all my efforts to the end that every Filipino, however lowly, shall be able to get his share of the national patrimony and that no Filipino, however 'highly placed, shall get more of it than he deserves. I shall see to it, within the powers vested in me by the constitution, that it shall be easy for the vast majority of our masses to earn a decent and comfortable living, even if I have to make it difficult for a few of our people to become overly rich.

My war against graft in the government shall continue to be relentless and it is only my love and respect for constitutional and legal processes, which after all are the foundation stones of democracy, that have prevented me from dealing with grafters more drastically. As it is, our anti-graft record is impressive enough. Out of 21,992 administrative cases filed, 13,600 have been decided, resulting in 9,547 convictions and 4,110 exonerations. Out of 740 criminal cases filed in the courts over 100 cases have been decided, three-fourths of which were convictions and the rest exonerations.

Upon my urging, Congress last year enacted the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Bill, which I have since signed into law. Some continue to criticize my anti-graft fight record, but I dare anyone to show me a record that will surpass or even just equal it. I have to become a dictator and tread beyond constitutional and legal limits if I have to deal with grafters with more dispatch than I am doing now. We cannot just line up against a wall all who are accused of graft and shoot them down like dogs. They must be given their day in court and punished according to our laws, for this is the way of democracy, and I firmly believe that the means employed is just as important as the end to be achieved.

I am a respector of civil liberties and constitutional rights and the rights of minorities to co-exist with majorities. Nobody can say that during my administration anyone was deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law. This shall continue to be so.

In the field of foreign relations, we shall continue our traditional ties with friends and broaden our contacts with the newly emergent nations which, like us, are still looking for their rightful place under the sun.

Lastly, we shall preserve in our country democracy as a way of life, republicanism as a form of government, and periodic free elections as the people's mandate to express their will. These things I intend to do and more.

When the YMCA back in 1910's introduced organized, competitive athletics, it did so, not only to develop healthy young men, but also to develop fair play and team work which are essential to the development of a working democracy. Democracy can not work as a one-man affair. The grandstand player has no place in an effective team. Alone, I can not accomplish much. Therefore, I ask of you to help me build this nation as you have successfully built an independent YMCA. Together there is nothing we cannot do; divided, we accomplish nothing.

I have been in many tight political fights during my long career in the public service. Fortunately, I have always been victorious; but no one, not anyone can say, that I won because I cheated. Nor can anyone say of me that when the fight was tough and victory seemed to belong to my opponent, I made advance excuses for my impending defeat by claiming my opponent will commit fraud and then threatening reprisal in that unlikely event. My years in the YMCA have taught me sportsmanship and the art of clean playing, virtues which today are at a premium. "When the Great Scorer pens my name, he writes not of me, won or lost, but how I played the game."

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1961). President Garcia's speech at the closing of the YMCA Golden Jubilee held at YMCA Youth Center, February 26, 1961. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57(10), 1766-1771.

**Speech of President Garcia before various ROTC and PMT units of universities and colleges in Manila during their field day celebrations on the Luneta, March 5, 1961 PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH BEFORE VARIOUS ROTC AND PMT UNITS OF UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES IN MANILA DURING THEIR FIELD DAY CELEBRATIONS ON THE LUNETA ON THE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 5, 1961**

I WISH to extend, first of all, my warmest congratulations to all of you who participated in the impressive military formation this afternoon. I am proud of you, my young countrymen.

As President of the Republic, I have pledged myself to personal discipline with which you made every step. I know that I can look forward to a happy tomorrow for our country and people for, indeed, personal discipline is the fountainhead from which springs the greatness of any nation. Only through the cultivation of personal discipline can we feel secure in ourselves. Only through the aggressive translation of this personal discipline into national discipline can we hope to build a nation that can claim greatness on the basis of the spirit—a spirit that seeks a world beyond the softness and glitter of the temporal and accepts the challenge of the infinite. Indeed, I cannot overemphasize the importance of discipline—particularly of national discipline—in the same manner that I cannot overemphasize the importance of greatness.

As President of this Republic, I have pledged myself to the pursuit of this greatness for our country and people. Let this occasion be the reason for a reiteration of that pledge. In our effort to establish a firm foundation for the material security of our country, we have not lost sight of the fact that a nation is judged not so much by the steel sinews of its material structure as by the soundness of its sense of values. We have not been without mistakes. We have received these criticisms in our stride and adopted the proper measures whenever necessary. But to our detractors, I want to state categorically that these mistakes have not blinded us to our true goal, nor have they slowed down the peace of our twofold effort to ensure the material and moral posterity of this country. The magnitude of our problems has not dimmed our vision. And this is the basis of our confidence. We can well forge ahead in our task of nation-building, light in heart under the pressure of human weakness because we are at the same time under the constant guidance of those principles that enrich the mainsprings of human strength.

More specifically, our confidence in the future is founded on our realization and cultivation of the potential of our youth. And as we—the elders—have to account for tomorrow, so will you the youth—have a share in answering for today. On your shoulders rests the grave responsibility for preparation. Fail not yourselves now and we, your elders, can rest substantially assured that we will not fail ourselves before the judgment of the coming generations.

The discipline which is imposed upon you, the military training which you have to undergo, the days of drilling under the scorching heat of the sun or under the cold lash of rain, are, in theory, a preparation. All these, however, are also intended to serve as incentives, a spur by which the youth can achieve the militancy that is required of every citizen, a militancy that is a basic ingredient of leadership. Furthermore, discipline is needed to help develop leadership that will remain true to its patriotic mission. And this mission requires youth leadership to be responsible, free from undesirable influences. I say that this kind of leadership can only come from within the ranks of the youth and not from those external elements which have, made it a profession to exploit the youth to suit selfish ends.

I urge you to develop leadership. But more strongly, I urge you to purify your leadership from all factors which can swerve your progress from the path of truth.

At this juncture, I must make special mention of our success with the help of our militant youth to foil communism's inroads by exposing it as a conspiracy to strip us in the final end of our liberty. We have succeeded in unmasking communism as a cancerous growth, seen or unseen, which seeks to undermine the time-tested and free institutions not only of our people but all of mankind. I urge you to carry on in combating and negating with truth what has been evolved by professional conspirators as an art of lies and deceit, and ultimately of violence, to overthrow existing and duly constituted governments.



In a war of ideas, in whatever field, I would personally encourage our youth to participate actively. They should be quick to criticize honestly the weaknesses of our society whenever there is a need for it, for in a democracy, in this way, the government can forge ahead truly responsive to the people's desire. They should, however, be also quick to praise and support the government whenever it is equally necessary. Malfeasance in office has been given much publicity, so must efficiency in the public service be equally glorified.

When we present a problem by generally treating its negative aspects without the relevant facts to stand in a court of justice, we defeat the real purpose of making any criticism at all. We would only be creating issues for partisan groups to ride on for their own selfish ends. The youth should continue being model citizens of their communities, in word and in deed, thus creating an atmosphere where our free way of life becomes in itself a deterrent to whatever force seeks to destroy it.

For we—you and your elders—all share in the responsibility of helping prove, through the achievements of this small nation, that democracy in the face of its own imperfections is so much better than what communism has to offer. And it is not a contradiction to say that democracy, which finds nourishment in freedom, works best through discipline. Discipline, because we are a young struggling nation susceptible to being diverted from our search for a place in the galaxy of greatness and because our success can furnish a stirring answer to the questions that divide humanity today into vast chasms of ideological and political discord. Given the guiding, light of principle, we cannot be pessimistic of the destiny that awaits us all. And young at heart but mature in perspective, we can march onward, as it were, in fine military order to greet the glorious dawn. I like to think that your splendid performance today serves as a spectacular promise of how this nation will face the future. I like to think that the parade and review just concluded is also a preview of our national conduct in the generations to come. Straightness and uniformity may not be the ideals of a democracy, but democratic diversity is also not an end in itself. There are many paths to truth but there is only one truth and in this purpose, we need to be united. To this end, we need discipline. Discipline in freedom—it is for us all to show that it does work. But it is up to you, who will succeed us, to give the final proof.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Speech of President Garcia during the induction of officers of the Philippine Contractors Association Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
During the induction of officers of the Philippine Contractors Association**

[Delivered at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club, March 10, 1961]

THIS opportunity given me to express my views before a segment of the private sector which plays a vital role in the Administration's efforts towards socioeconomic development and stability comes as a timely privilege.

The administration has proposed public investment in the amount of ₱400 million in the field of public works, excluding those earmarked for the construction of 350 kilometers of concrete roads which will cost an additional ₱35 million. These should be sufficient reason for the Philippine Contractors Association to infuse more revitalized interest in its cooperative efforts with government agencies charged with public works undertakings.

This new capital requirement embodied in the proposed "Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1961" and a companion measure for "Rural Development, Social Overhead, and Tourist Promotion Projects," is aimed at supporting an aggressive socio-economic development plan and carrying effectively an accelerated rural development program which can adequately answer the growing needs of our increasing population.

The Administration implemented a retrenchment policy in government investment in public works in the past years, consistent with its goal to attain monetary stability and economic growth which will ward off any possible inflationary trends. The measure implemented to strengthen our monetary stability and economic firmness have resulted in positive gains in our economy. The administration is now justified to consider new capital requirements in its public works investment evaluated within prudent limits of its fiscal resources.

The heartening opportunities for the construction industry laid down in our program of public works construction this year clearly indicates the concern my administration has for the construction industry, its growth, its welfare and progress. Our retrenchment policy in public works investment in the past has slightly slanted downwards the rise of the statistical curve in the graph of private construction participation in government construction jobs. But the descending slope was merely a natural and passing effect of the austerity program which has imposed "belt-tightening" in the different sectors of our economy.

My administration has always been mindful of the cause of the construction business, cognizant as it is of the significant role that it plays in the big task of nation-building. I have anticipated with optimism that the success of the cure-measures for a revitalized economy will spur new trends and bigger undertakings in our government public works construction, and that counts for the opportunities it will offer to the construction business.

What will be the preponderance of undertakings which will highlight government construction?

In my message to Congress last January, I emphasized the urgency of prosecuting major public works jobs imperatively needed to conserve our resources and protect human lives and property from the ravages wrought by destructive floods. I stressed the need for regional basin development in order to tap our vast water resources to meet the increasing power needs of an accelerated industrial dispersal program, utilize the same for industrial-municipal and domestic water supply, and use a commensurate portion for irrigation to give more substance to our increased production efforts.

I have endorsed a judicious concrete paving of our main thoroughfares and highways in order to serve our people with easy, safe, convenient, and permanent means of transport for goods and services and support our transportation services with the kind of roads which would reduce to the bare minimum the wear and tear of vehicular units which would otherwise eat-up a sizeable portion of the income of the transportation business for maintenance and repair.

This is also aimed at promoting our tourist trade. This in turn would minimize dollar needs for spare parts of the transportation business, thereby helping conserve our dollar reserves.

This program of development which I broadly outlined in my state-of-the-nation address, finds ideal support from the twin public works measures which have been publicized as the “Moreno version” of this year’s public works act.

These acts carry unmistakable emphasis on flood control and have prudently recommended ₱29.5 million of our general revenue expense and ₱30.5 million from bond funds for the various works involved in flood control. Another ₱7.2 million has been earmarked for the flood control and joint works of the Marikina project while the Angat multipurpose project is also being re-examined to assist in the flood diminution to the Pampanga basin.

To insure adequate and dependable supply of water for irrigation purposes and to increase the acreage of irrigated land for sustained and increased production, fund support for irrigation projects amounting to ₱43.3 million has been set aside. Notable in this portion of the appropriation is the outlay for the irrigation phase of the Angat multipurpose project amounting to ₱25.3 million, and for the irrigation phase of the Marikina multi-purpose project in the amount of ₱4 million.

The sum of ₱35 million is being set aside for the paving of highways proportionately apportioned at an estimated program of 150 kilometers in Luzon, 100 kilometers in Mindanao, and 100 kilometers in the Visayas. For the prosecution of building programs for national offices, general revenue fund amounting to ₱23 million has been sought. An outlay of ₱5 million from bond fund for the continuation of work at the National Capital at Constitution Hill in Quezon City has been recommended. For hospitals and sanitarium buildings ₱5 million is being sought.

The efforts to provide potable water supply for our people have been given ₱5 million allotment for nationwide waterworks projects, while the improvement of Manila and suburbs waterworks systems has been recommended an appropriation of ₱6.8 million.

Communications expansion, a project supported by loan will be provided peso support of ₱1 million this year and a program for the construction of post-telecom buildings with ₱1.4 million from the postal savings bank savings has been scheduled.

Portworks expansion and improvement will tap the port-works special fund of ₱18.8 million in order to cope with the needs of our water-borne transportation and our expanding ocean-going commerce. Another ₱5.5 million is also being asked of Congress to continue the vigorous construction of the Manila International Airport and terminal buildings.

A commensurate portion of the appropriations sought will go to utility projects, social overheads, tourist promotion projects, nationwide selected projects, community development undertakings considered vital to the integrated program of socio-economic, and rural development.

The magnitude of the task of public works construction gives you an insight into the opportunities made available to the construction industry. The limitations to our prosecution of such task lie on the fiscal resources and requirements and an enduring and stable economy which the administration has by far succeeded in restoring to safe level.

There will be a re-activation of projects which have been partly suspended because of austerity measures. There will be big jobs of long range scale which will tap the resources of the nation and the skill and potentialities of the Filipino engineer and technologist.

From the nature of the task of nation-building, I take cognizance of the role played by the construction industry and by the rank and file of engineers and technologists. In fact, if by popular mandate my services to our country and people should be sustained in the polls together with the services of one or two from the rank and file of the potent and recognized leaders of engineering and technology who can initiate more aggressively well-rounded and sound

programs of government construction supportive of a well-balanced socio-economic and rural development in the upper chamber of Congress, I would be most happy to find such an ideal set-up.

But the opportunities that my administration can offer to the construction industry, in relation to other well-considered factors in an integrated and coordinated program of economic development, do not merely lie on the outlay for government construction jobs. The economic gains that the administration has attained would further enable it to provide the proper atmosphere and climate conducive to more support in the acquisition of necessary tools and instruments paramount in the construction business. Within prudent limits, our fiscal and monetary agencies will assess your needs and fit them well into the overall pattern of our integrated development programs that would require additional dollar capital investments.

I wish to anticipate more active participation by the private construction sector in government jobs. Basically, such participation should be founded on the ethical relationship between client and contractor because the peculiar nature of government undertaking places at stake not only public welfare but the interest of the people, the ultimate source of sovereign authority.

On this score, I urge the contractors to observe more fidelity to contractual obligations with the government agencies so as not to delay or upset the timetable of government programs and cause the government additional expense or embarrassment for failure to meet on time its commitment for certain services.

We would like to see removed all possible irritants which would impair in any manner the mutual cooperative efforts of contractors and government agencies charged with construction jobs. If some agencies have to take measures to the side of the contractor appears inimical to the industry, it so occurs only when the government agencies have to safeguard the interest of the government and the people from being jeopardized by smart if not unscrupulous operators.

On the basis of a more ethical relationship with representatives of the construction industry, and on the premises of more confidence and showing of responsibility in performance of contractors and their adherence to contractual obligations, we look forward to bigger participation of private contractors in government construction undertakings.

Nation-building is so big and tremendous a task that we justly rely on the contributions of the construction industry in speeding up our socioeconomic and rural development efforts and provide facilities and services healthy for our economy and to the satisfaction of our people.

It is with mutual understanding of the needs and problems of the industry and the government agencies, and with more constructive cooperation between both that we would like to see you carry on with the task of helping the government accelerate the completion of vital instruments for progress and prosperity.

**Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1961). Speech of President Garcia during the induction of officers of the Philippine Contractors Association held at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club, Friday evening, March 10, 1961. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57(13), 2300-2304.

**Speech of President Garcia before various ROTC and PMT units of universities and colleges in Manila during their field day celebrations on the Luneta, March 5, 1961 PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH BEFORE VARIOUS ROTC AND PMT UNITS OF UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES IN MANILA DURING THEIR FIELD DAY CELEBRATIONS ON THE LUNETTA ON THE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 5, 1961**

I WISH to extend, first of all, my warmest congratulations to all of you who participated in the impressive military formation this afternoon. I am proud of you, my young countrymen.

As President of the Republic, I have pledged myself to personal discipline with which you made every step. I know that I can look forward to a happy tomorrow for our country and people for, indeed, personal discipline is the fountainhead from which springs the greatness of any nation. Only through the cultivation of personal discipline can we feel secure in ourselves. Only through the aggressive translation of this personal discipline into national discipline can we hope to build a nation that can claim greatness on the basis of the spirit—a spirit that seeks a world beyond the softness and glitter of the temporal and accepts the challenge of the infinite. Indeed, I cannot overemphasize the importance of discipline—particularly of national discipline—in the same manner that I cannot overemphasize the importance of greatness.

As President of this Republic, I have pledged myself to the pursuit of this greatness for our country and people. Let this occasion be the reason for a reiteration of that pledge. In our effort to establish a firm foundation for the material security of our country, we have not lost sight of the fact that a nation is judged not so much by the steel sinews of its material structure as by the soundness of its sense of values. We have not been without mistakes. We have received these criticisms in our stride and adopted the proper measures whenever necessary. But to our detractors, I want to state categorically that these mistakes have not blinded us to our true goal, nor have they slowed down the peace of our twofold effort to ensure the material and moral posterity of this country. The magnitude of our problems has not dimmed our vision. And this is the basis of our confidence. We can well forge ahead in our task of nation-building, light in heart under the pressure of human weakness because we are at the same time under the constant guidance of those principles that enrich the mainsprings of human strength.

More specifically, our confidence in the future is founded on our realization and cultivation of the potential of our youth. And as we—the elders—have to account for tomorrow, so will you the youth—have a share in answering for today. On your shoulders rests the grave responsibility for preparation. Fail not yourselves now and we, your elders, can rest substantially assured that we will not fail ourselves before the judgment of the coming generations.

The discipline which is imposed upon you, the military training which you have to undergo, the days of drilling under the scorching heat of the sun or under the cold lash of rain, are, in theory, a preparation. All these, however, are also intended to serve as incentives, a spur by which the youth can achieve the militancy that is required of every citizen, a militancy that is a basic ingredient of leadership. Furthermore, discipline is needed to help develop leadership that will remain true to its patriotic mission. And this mission requires youth leadership to be responsible, free from undesirable influences. I say that this kind of leadership can only come from within the ranks of the youth and not from those external elements which have, made it a profession to exploit the youth to suit selfish ends.

I urge you to develop leadership. But more strongly, I urge you to purify your leadership from all factors which can swerve your progress from the path of truth.

At this juncture, I must make special mention of our success with the help of our militant youth to foil communism's inroads by exposing it as a conspiracy to strip us in the final end of our liberty. We have succeeded in unmasking communism as a cancerous growth, seen or unseen, which seeks to undermine the time-tested and free institutions not only of our people but all of mankind. I urge you to carry on in combating and negating with truth what has been evolved by professional conspirators as an art of lies and deceit, and ultimately of violence, to overthrow existing and duly constituted governments.

In a war of ideas, in whatever field, I would personally encourage our youth to participate actively. They should be quick to criticize honestly the weaknesses of our society whenever there is a need for it, for in a democracy, in this way, the government can forge ahead truly responsive to the people's desire. They should, however, be also quick to praise and support the government whenever it is equally necessary. Malfeasance in office has been given much publicity, so must efficiency in the public service be equally glorified.

When we present a problem by generally treating its negative aspects without the relevant facts to stand in a court of justice, we defeat the real purpose of making any criticism at all. We would only be creating issues for partisan groups to ride on for their own selfish ends. The youth should continue being model citizens of their communities, in word and in deed, thus creating an atmosphere where our free way of life becomes in itself a deterrent to whatever force seeks to destroy it.

For we—you and your elders—all share in the responsibility of helping prove, through the achievements of this small nation, that democracy in the face of its own imperfections is so much better than what communism has to offer. And it is not a contradiction to say that democracy, which finds nourishment in freedom, works best through discipline. Discipline, because we are a young struggling nation susceptible to being diverted from our search for a place in the galaxy of greatness and because our success can furnish a stirring answer to the questions that divide humanity today into vast chasms of ideological and political discord. Given the guiding, light of principle, we cannot be pessimistic of the destiny that awaits us all. And young at heart but mature in perspective, we can march onward, as it were, in fine military order to greet the glorious dawn. I like to think that your splendid performance today serves as a spectacular promise of how this nation will face the future. I like to think that the parade and review just concluded is also a preview of our national conduct in the generations to come. Straightness and uniformity may not be the ideals of a democracy, but democratic diversity is also not an end in itself. There are many paths to truth but there is only one truth and in this purpose, we need to be united. To this end, we need discipline. Discipline in freedom—it is for us all to show that it does work. But it is up to you, who will succeed us, to give the final proof.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Speech of President Garcia at the Commencement Exercises of the National University and the conferring of the degree of Doctor of Humanities (Honoris Causa)**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the Commencement Exercises of the National University and the conferring of the degree of Doctor of  
Humanities (Honoris Causa)**

[Delivered at the Jose Rizal Memorial Stadium, March 21, 1961]

I WELCOME the opportunity to address the faculty and the student Body of this great institution of learning on this momentous occasion. At the outset, allow me to extend my warmest congratulations to the earnest and ambitious young men and women who have reached their goals and have just been awarded their diplomas as symbols of academic success. I need not tell you what difficulties and obstacles you had to overcome. Suffice it to say that this is your hour of triumph, of fruition, of fulfillment. It is, indeed, one of the happiest moments of your lives. And so I am glad to be with you and to join you in your rejoicing. I wish you Godspeed as you leave the familiar halls of your alma mater and go out into the cold, calculating world to face the future, with its challenges, its promises, and its stark realities.

For my part, I deeply appreciate the distinction that has been accorded me by the authorities of the National University in conferring upon me the degree of Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*. I consider this gesture as a token of recognition by the National University of whatever I have done for the promotion of the welfare and happiness of our people. Such recognition will spur me to still greater endeavors in their behalf. In acknowledging this signal honor, I pledge myself to dedicate the remaining years of my life to the service of humanity and our people and to furtherance of better understanding and closer relations between our people and the other nations of the world.

As we look at ourselves in self-examination, we cannot fail to see the unmistakable signs of a growing trend toward materialism. Stealthily, like a thief in the dead of night, its influence seems to be creeping into the minds of our people, blurring their sense of social values and otherwise affecting their outlook on life. And so today we find a man's worth being frequently gauged, not on the basis of the kind of life he leads nor on the contribution he makes to social well-being and progress, but on the basis of the size of his holdings or the number of digits in the credit balance column of his bank book. Coupled with this trend is the pragmatic way of thinking which, more often than not, leads to opportunism and expediency in one's decisions and actions.

The impact of this trend upon the impressionable minds of the youth is almost certain to lead to the whetting of their desire for the material things of life—money, possessions, and the power that goes with wealth and social position. Kept within proper limits, such desire and ambition are legitimate and may even be socially beneficial. But if it is allowed to develop into an obsession, it may become so strong that the end may be made to justify the means, with the result that the individual may be tempted to go beyond the bounds of morality and even to break the law in order to get what he wants. This is one of the sources of anomalies, graft, and corruption—evils that today are afflicting our social organism like a malignant cancer.

This condition must not be allowed to continue. We must revise our concept and appreciation of moral values. In casting about for principles to live by and to guide and sustain our actions, we have to understand deeper the eternal cosmic laws of life; for instance, the inevitability of retribution for every wrong one does, known or unknown; the certainty of reward for every good or righteous action, known or unknown; the infallibility of the law of cause and effect and the like. We need to go back to the old concepts of honesty, family solidarity, clean and righteous living, respect for authority, and the other traits which have been the objects of encomium by the chroniclers of the early days of our history. It is unfortunate that the ravages of time appear to have weakened these traits. Therefore, something should be done to strengthen them and to return them to their pristine state. In the process of interaction between our native culture and the culture of other people, we must be careful not to give up what is ours and

embrace what is foreign merely because the latter bears the label of modernity. We should keep in mind the advice of St. Paul to the Thessalonians: "Test all things; hold fast that which is good."

Extending our view to the world outside, we find that prejudices of one kind or another still color and warp the thinking of many people in different parts of the globe. Then, too, misunderstandings, mistrust, and suspicions still exist and impair the friendly relations that should prevail among nations. Two opposing ideologies, each one espoused by the strongest nations of the world, are engaged in a titanic struggle to win the minds of men. As a result of these conditions, tensions prevail among peoples. Even today, in faraway Africa, as well as in Southeast Asia, there are powder kegs which are capable of exploding any day; and of throwing the whole world into a mighty conflagration, the like of which has not been witnessed in the long history of mankind.

It is true that man has made giant strides in the fields of science and technology. We stand in wonderment as we ponder how man has been able to harness the forces of nature to his higher purposes. We admire the strong bridges he has constructed to span rivers and even seas and, the sturdy ships he has built for crossing the wide expanse of oceans. We marvel at the powerful locomotives that have made land travel rapid and easy. We are fascinated by the airplane, and by inventions which will soon bring to reality inter-planetary navigation. We are awed by his determined efforts to probe into and conquer outer space. We are amazed by the speed with which mass communication has been made possible through the invention of the modern printing press, the radio, and the television. We stand aghast at the tremendous energy and power that have been released through the splitting of the atom—energy, and power which can be used either to wipe out continents or to serve man's needs in medicine, agriculture, and industry. Yet the envisioned golden age of science still to come will dwarf all these wonders I have just mentioned.

But I doubt whether these advances have made our world a happier and peaceful place to live in. One thing I am sure is that they have not been matched by similar progress in the area of human virtues. Material progress has not stopped man's cupidity, greed, and hatred. It has not put an end to "man's inhumanity to man." Envy is still as strong as it was in the days of Abraham, whose son tried to kill their youngest brother, Joseph, by throwing him into a cistern. In other words, little, if any, progress has been made in attaining social solidarity of the world envisaged in the sacrament of the Eucharist or the brotherhood of humanity preached in the Sermon on the Mount.

Neither has there been enough success in the fields of international relations. The concept of world brotherhood is still a dream, and its realization still belongs to a future millennium. It is true that through the United Nations Organization it has been possible to localize conflicts, as in the case of the hostilities in Korea and the Middle East and other places. In fact, the astronomical rise in might achieved by some countries owing to advances in science and technology, may lead the world to a cataclysmic war that may sink it into another Atlantis of Annihilation. Hence, the necessity of moral and spiritual elevation especially in the modern leadership of nations.

So it is of the essence that the universities, like the National University, give the highest premium to the moral education of our youth. Evaluation of men for leadership should place maximum weight to moral qualities and spiritual fortitude, never forgetting that it takes only one mad man with tremendous powers of leadership to destroy the world. There has been developed so much physical power, available to the use of men that the salvation of humanity would require as a *sine qua non* an equal development of moral and spiritual power.

In our desire to reshape the thinking and ideals of our people, we have to lean heavily on our schools, for they have under their care and tutelage the youth, whose ideas are still in, the formative stage. These institutions should take it upon themselves to imbue their students with the ideals of world peace and a proper regard for their fellowmen. They should inculcate in them the ideals of honesty and righteous living as well as the readiness and desire to comply with their obligations as good citizens of our Republic. As a matter of fact, their first duty, according to our Constitution, is to develop good moral character. The teaching of the different subjects, like science, mathematics, English, the social studies, and so forth is merely taken for granted. In my recent message to Congress on the state of the nation, I urged the strengthening of the social values through the intensification of character education as a separate subject in the curricula of the public and the private schools.



I also consider this intensification of character education important and even necessary in connection with my administration's relentless drive against graft and corruption feel quite strongly that positive measures through education must go hand in hand with punitive or remedial efforts in cleaning the government. Through education we can reorient the social views of our youth so that in the case of corruption the giver of the bribe should be equally condemned by society as the receiver of bribe. Now the tempter is idolized and only the tempted is punished and ostracized. Just the same we are seriously pushing through our punitive or remedial campaign. A total of more than 20,000 administrative cases have been filed against officials and employees of the government, and more than 9,000 of these have been convicted and punished. But this campaign will not achieve enduring} beneficial results unless accompanied by positive measures through educational process.

In the effort to help in the regeneration and strengthening of the moral fiber of our people, the schools would do well to avail themselves of the approved methods that are known in the field of character education. Direct appeal in the form of exhortation is good, but we must not lose sight of the value of the more subtle approaches. In this connection, we should not underestimate the importance of literature as a means of influencing the minds of people. The movie, the radio, and the television should be extensively used in the total spiritual mobilization. The pages of history are replete with examples of how the writings of literary men and women have led to significant movements and events in the life of nations. The French Revolution had its Voltaire and Rosseau; knight-errantry in Spain, its Cervantes, slavery in America its Harriet Beecher Stowe. In the Philippines we had our own Rizal, Plaridel, Mabini, and Jaena, whose writings have galvanized our national consciousness and unified the sentiments of our people. Indeed, so strong is the power of the pen that Bulwer-Lytton was moved to state that it is mightier than the sword.

In conclusion let me stress the point that our country is today facing the problem of bringing about the moral and spiritual regeneration of our society. The last war has wrought havoc, not only on the buildings in our cities, not only on our economy, but also on the morals of our people. It we are to survive as a race, our people must be restored to their ancient moorings which have enabled them for centuries to weather the storms of life. In this task our institutions of learning have a vital role, to play. It is my hope that the National University with the rest play this role with credit to themselves and glory to their country.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1961). Speech of President Garcia at the Commencement Exercises of the National University and the conferring of the degree of Doctor of Humanities (Honoris Causa), Jose Rizal Memorial Stadium, Tuesday afternoon, March 21, 1961. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57(15), 2676-2680.

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
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**Speech of President Garcia before the Business Writers Association of the Philippines (BWAP)**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
Before the Business Writers Association of the Philippines (BWAP)**

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, March 22, 1961]

MY FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

MORE than thirty years ago, a man who became the poet laureate of this MIDDLE EAST COUNTRY, wrote these words.

Pity the nation that wears a cloth it does not weave, eats a bread it does not harvest, and drinks a wine that flows not from, its own winepress. . . .

Thus with incisive insight this (Kahlil Gibran of Lebanon) poet summed up a verity of life full of economic as well as philosophical implications. Perhaps he was speaking of his own country and his own time, but he could very well have spoken of all countries which suffer the basic weakness of dependency upon others for their existence.

The problems of dependency and deficiency have had long historical roots in the underdeveloped countries of Asia and Africa. Many of them newly emergent from the shadow of foreign dominance, found themselves thrust into the backwash of world competition left to their meager technological and financial resources, to eddy far behind the industrial and advanced nations. The rising expectations of their peoples soon pressed to the limits of these resources, and extraordinary measures had to be taken to push out of the restrictive confines of underdevelopment and poverty into the broad new frontiers of self-sustaining economic growth more worthy of free nations. Economic development then became the prime aspiration and common consuming effort of these countries, including our own, with self-sufficiency as the immediate good, and prosperity, the ultimate end.

We have met with remarkable success in our effort. I need not elaborate on statistical magnitudes in this regard; the record is open for all to see. From an economy prostrated by war, with production and trade facilities largely in ashes, we have witnessed the transition to an economy self-sufficient in the basic needs of its people and able to trade with the world from a position of growing strength.

We have seen our economy stoutly weather off at least two serious financial crises which could very easily have wiped out the gains of any development program through ruinous inflation. We have watched the growing network of social-overhead” or “impulse” facilities, such as transport, communications, and power which are necessary pre-conditions to the establishment and operation of other facilities. We have witnessed the intensification of production activity in both agricultural and industrial lines, with the mushrooming of factories and plants in commercial centers, and their increasing dispersal to the rural regions. Last but not least, we have been aware of the growing experience and maturity of government and private business in the task of economy-building, the all-important intangibles vital to the sustenance of progress.

And now, we find the country at the threshold of a return to free enterprise, with the government preparing to relinquish the controls it has exercised over the past decade as an instrument of economic development. This in itself is eloquent testimony to the stage of progress the Philippines has achieved, that the government should now get

ready to entrust the responsibility for allocation of resources to the market forces, and the continuance of development to the businessmen and industrialists of the private sector.

We have reached the penultimate stage before the threshold is crossed and full decontrol becomes a fact. The widening of the free market area last March, second to embrace about 75 per cent of all foreign exchange transactions, brings us one step closer to a unitary exchange rate which shall be responsive to the exigencies of the market. However, during this stage there are several things that must be accomplished if the threshold is to be safely spanned and the return to free enterprise completed without the dislocation of the economy and the disruption of development. Of late, you have been well apprised of the duties and responsibilities of the private sector in effecting a successful transition. Let me now discuss then the other side of the coin, the measures that have been taken or are yet to be taken in the public sector before the final stage of the decontrol program can be terminated.

The imminence of full decontrol will necessarily cause the government to shift emphasis from direct regulation to more subtle instruments of supervision. Henceforth, the channeling of economic activities into desired lines will have to be accomplished by inducement and moral suasion rather than by the force of edict. Policies of attraction through tax incentives, tariff protection, or even subsidies for highly desirable projects will play larger roles in encouraging the flow of resources to strategic areas of economic endeavor. Otherwise, the government will seek to minimize its intervention in the course of ordinary business.

The public sector's fiscal operations will be a particularly sensitive factor during this transitional decontrol period and thereafter. Greater caution will be necessary because any imprudence in fiscal policies would immediately have an unsettling impact on the free peso-dollar parity. An excess of expenditures over revenues would trigger an inflationary situation at a time when the economy is particularly vulnerable. Expansion in money supply at a rate that outstrips increase in domestic production would pressure the country's balance of payments with a high effective demand for imports. There being no controls to insulate the international reserves, a deterioration in foreign exchange resources would be inevitable. This would weaken the position of the peso vis-a-vis other currencies, a condition which would reflect itself in the free market exchange rate.

Fully cognizant of the danger, this Administration therefore pledges to do its utmost to maintain the sound fiscal performance which has characterized the last three years. The Administration shall not hesitate to utilize all its power and influence to keep this pledge, which has now become the cornerstone of our policy in the public sector.

With the disappearance from the scene of the exchange control system, fiscal and monetary policies will therefore be adopted to promote the selectivity in economic goals hitherto enforced by the controls. For instance, the controls have carried out such objectives as maintaining a production-oriented import pattern and insulating the international reserve from excessive demand. Now, the tariff on the fiscal side, and credit policies on the monetary side, will bear the brunt of influencing the pattern of import, production, and income distribution. They will also be charged with providing temporary protection and preferences to economically desirable industries which may require a little more time to adjust fully operations to a free economy.

The basic measures will mostly require congressional action. In the meantime, however, I am doing what we, within our powers in the Executive Branch, could possibly do to traverse this transition as smoothly as possible. I have directed that the margin be reduced by the Central Bank from 20 to 15 per cent to mitigate the impact occasioned by the widening of the free market under the third phase of decontrol on local producers and consumers.

I have also approved the redirection in our credit policies to meet the current and future monetary requirements of a decontrolling economy. While the selective "Portfolio Ceilings" are still being maintained for certain reasons, all other credit restraints have already been removed. The Central Bank has liberalized its rediscounting facilities and open market operations, and has cut down reserve requirements on demand liabilities to only 16 per cent, the lowest in its history. As it is now, there is hardly any restriction on credit expansion, save the financial limitations of the banks themselves. In line with our policy to attract foreign investments and in order to make available more funds to the productive sector, the reduction from the 75-100 per cent level to only 16 per cent, like other demand deposits of the required reserves against blocked fiduciary deposits, is being considered. This should effect an unfreezing of

funds formerly required to be held against the blocked accounts. Another factor which should contribute to the easing of the monetary situation is the increased income flow of exporters under decontrol.

The impact of these measures is only beginning to be felt. As of now the scarcity of available funds still requires that portfolio priorities established by the Central Bank be continued. However, steps have been taken to strengthen the distribution of network of the country, by liberalizing credit for Filipino distributors dealing in domestic foodstuffs, placing loans for this purpose under Priority I. The matter of distribution is a crucial one for the economy. For instance, the lack of an adequate distribution network may be a significant cause for high prices in consuming areas even while regional surpluses may exist elsewhere. Public works projects, other development projects, and further appropriate credit measures will therefore be accelerated to augment the flow of money to the rural regions and improve the transportation aspect of distribution, especially by linking producing areas with consuming areas.

The Administration is taking other practical steps to increase the domestic availability of capital besides the monetary and fiscal measures. For example, full support will be extended Filipinos willing to avail themselves of the foreign loans and capital now being offered the country. As a consequence of the remarkable pick-up in our economy, international financial institutions, such as the World Bank, have expressed their readiness to assist us at this time. It is my deep satisfaction to state that the great private banks of the United States and other financing institutions have indicated their desire to extend credit facilities to us or invest in the Philippines if fair terms and climate of investment can be guaranteed by the Philippine government. An Office is therefore being created in the Central Bank specifically to extend technical assistance to investors, both foreign and domestic. This Office will help Filipino firms prepare project studies and draw up loan applications satisfactory to the foreign credit agencies. Pending enactment of a foreign investment law by Congress, this Office will also assist foreign investors with informational and counseling services. This Office will be the international investment window of the Central Bank, so to speak, which extends initial processing service for prospective foreign investors in this country. And when the foreign investment bill is enacted into law, this Office may be charged to implement the law.

We have also worked out measures to blunt any unreasonable price rises. Adequate foreign exchange will be made available to the NAMARCO for importation of essential commodities and to other pertinent agencies for importation of staples. This is of prime importance in order to ensure that commodity prices remain within reach of the masses and that speculative hoarding be prevented.

In the area of economic planning, some reorientation towards a decontrolled private enterprise system must be accomplished. With the economic situation growing more fluid and complex as larger decisions are left to the market forces, and the scope of the government's control over resource allocation narrows, the need for sound and sustained planning becomes more marked. An overall plan is needed to give broad direction and guidance to the diverse operations of the economy in the interest of orderly and continued development.

Though we have made remarkable advances in the last decade, we have still a long way to full development. Our resources of investment capital and technological skills are limited in the face of all the possibilities. Consequently, these resources must somehow be applied to the particular uses which would gain the optimum overall benefit. Without planning, resources might very well remain idle, or be applied haphazardly. The job of the economic plan would be to highlight desirable projects from among competing projects, and extend them the necessary preferences in the competition for acquisition of resources.

But I must strongly emphasize that these measures which the Administration is taking, are not adequate to insure the country's continued progress when full decontrol has arrived. They must be bolstered up and complemented by bold and decisive legislation. I therefore urge the speedy enactment by Congress of the following complementary measures—the measures—the revision of the tariff, the repeal of barter, the foreign investment bill, and a substitute measure for the exchange margin fee.

To perform properly its function under the new conditions, a revision of the Tariff and Customs Code is indicated. Recent studies on the distribution of present tariff rates among the different commodity categories have shown little correlation to essentiality. Neither are some rates adequate enough to extend protection to deserving industries. A

tariff revamp will therefore be considered by Congress with the aim of making the system more responsive to the needs of a decontrolled economy, and the increased competition of imported goods under decontrol.

While the revision of tariff rates is in process, we have adopted some “stop-gap” necessary measures to afford immediate, through temporary protection, to local infant industries which will later fall under the mantle of tariff security. Such a measure is the restriction of certain commodity imports, particularly those at present under the “Unclassified Items” category, and produced locally in sufficient volume. This category is being broadened to include some items now outside of it, but whose banning would be imperative to eliminate direct competitive threat to particularly sensitive domestic industries.

Congress will also have to consider the repeal of barter: If the Philippine peso is allowed to seek its own equilibrium rate, the reason for barter then ceases to exist. I must point out that, should barter continue, a unified exchange rate would be extremely difficult to achieve, and the success of decontrol would be jeopardized.

Above all we have to pass a foreign investment law really intended to attract friendly foreign capital to the country. We have to admit that our own capital formation being small as yet, it does not have the capacity and the courage to go into highly speculative ventures like oil mining, or ventures that require heavy initial investment and very slow in producing profit like iron, silver, nickel, basic metals mining, or any mining for that matter. In these and several other fields of ventures to develop and utilize our natural resources as fast as we can, *we have need of the assistance of foreign investment*. We have vast natural resources to develop and develop right away. Let us not be *perros del Hortelano*, that refuse to eat and at the same time prevent others to eat. Let us also not lose sight of the fact that foreign investment here constitutes our own beach-head in foreign countries for our own foreign trade expansion and diversification. Let it not be forgotten also that a law for the attraction of foreign capital will not produce any positive results unless the foreign investor is assured of a favorable climate, a fair and just treatment, and a reasonable guarantee that the investor can enjoy the fruits of his ventures to the equitable measure established by generally recognized principles of international law.

With the eventual attainment of an equilibrium rate of exchange, there will no longer be any reason to impose extraordinary cost restrictions on imports, especially after the revision of the tariff. Yet, the government must make up for the substantial loss of revenue entailed by repeal of the margin, owing to the necessity of financing the expanding needs of the country, as well as countering the price rises consequent to decontrol. Existing sources of taxes are already being burdened as much as could be reasonably asked for. As it is, many business firms are already being subjected to a cost-price squeeze, and the recent price rises due to decontrol are having an eroding effect on the personal incomes of the people.

It seems only fair to pass on the incidence of new taxes primarily to the main beneficiaries of decontrol. For most of them, the rise in the exchange rate has represented a pure windfall. Tapping a part of this windfall for fiscal purposes would not only make up the required revenue to replace the margin fee, but would provide a powerful anti-inflationary or counter-cyclical weapon. It would also constitute a simple act of social justice. It being the eternal cosmic law at work—that those who want to reap must sow.

This then, my friends, is the broad outline of the Administration’s program for the final stage of decontrol. However, the apparent acceleration of the decontrol program seems to have generated some speculation and injected an element of uncertainty into the business climate. Let me erase any doubts or confusion that may have arisen, by making this announcement: It is the Administration’s considered decision to maintain the third phase of decontrol for as long as it takes to enact the basic legislative and executive measures which constitute the necessary complements to the monetary measures. There can be no full decontrol until this is accomplished. There shall, be no full decontrol unless and until the transitional measures have been taken and found fairly adequate to stabilize the national economy for complete freedom from controls.

We are at a promising, though challenging period in our national affairs. We must grant that the transition from control to decontrol will work some difficulties on us. But these are passing and transitory, and are the sacrifices we pay for freedom. Also, there are those who question as to whether we can surpass or at least sustain under free enterprise the high rate of development achieved during the decade under controls. This can only be determined by

the manner in which the different sectors rise to meet the challenges now posed before us. But as far as my administration is concerned, I have full faith and confidence in the vision, determination, guts, and pluck of the Filipino that I am fully convinced that our achievements in the economic field during the decade of the sixties will dwarf even the spectacular achievements of our National Recovery from the last World War.

Fellow countrymen, for fifteen years we have held the leadership among new independent countries in the field of economic development in Asia and Africa. Let us keep that leadership not for vain glory or national pride. Let us keep that leadership to prove that the democratic way of life, with freedom as its magic tool, is the real way to the redemption of the masses from misery, crime, disease, and ignorance. Democracy is the way of hope and love and abundant life.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1961). President Garcia's speech before the Business Writers Association of the Philippines (BWAP) on March 22, 1961, at the Manila Hotel. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57(14), 2470-2476.

**Speech of President Garcia at the Commencement Exercises of the University of San Agustin**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the Commencement Exercises of the University of San Agustin**

[Delivered in Iloilo City, March 25, 1961]

MOST REV. RECTOR, DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY, MEMBERS OF THE GRADUATING CLASSES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THE high academic honor you confer upon me today is one that any man would be proud to receive, and in all humility I accept it with gratitude and full appreciation of its significance. One of the immediate benefits of receiving this doctorate of laws, is that I become automatically an honorary alumnus of the University of San Agustin. It shall be my constant endeavor in all my thoughts and action to hold up high the honor and prestige of this famous institution of learning until the end of my days.

I am happy indeed to become a San Agustin alumnus— Class of 1961—and to be associated with this university whose name evokes a pageant of history, recalling the very roots of Christianity in the Philippines, calling to mind the origins of that which is now an integral part of our Filipino heritage.

You will recall that the very first missionaries to land in our shores and preach the gospel of Christ in the Philippines belonged to the Order of St. Augustine. It was they who broke the ground, so to speak, and it was this same Order which sowed the seeds of Christian faith which today gives our nation a distinctive character, and a unique identity in this part of the world.

The first parochial schools ever set up on Philippine soil were established by those courageous Augustinian missionaries. And it is a historical fact that the first educational center to offer secondary education in the Philippines was founded by the Augustinian Fathers as early as 1572.

History also records the notable achievements of the Augustinian Order in this country, and relates of the contributions made here in the fields of science, linguistics, literature, and history as well as religion, by learned and distinguished members of the Order.

The University of San Agustin, therefore, has a tradition that goes back to the beginnings of Christianity in the Philippines, and to the first meeting of our native Malayan culture with the culture of the West represented by Spain. The Filipino of today is largely the product of those two distinct cultures which subsequently merged into one, and which was further enriched by our contact with the culture of the New World at the turn of this century.

In the Philippines, therefore, there is a trinity of outstanding elements in our culture, and these are our native

Asian-Malayan, the Latino-Christian culture we inherited from Spain, and the Anglo-American democratic ideology.

This amalgam of three great cultures of the world is what we now claim as our own Philippine culture. It is our duty not only to preserve this cultural heritage but to enrich and develop it to higher horizons and vaster frontiers and make it worthy of the 21st century and the Eternity thereafter.

Oftentimes, there are super nationalists who are embarrassed that a great part of what we call Philippine culture “has merely been transplanted” to our soil from other lands. These puritans call only Philippine culture that which is indigenous to our land. This point of view has become anachronistic and no longer valid. In the great stream of our

culture or any culture for that matter, there have flowed in confluence many tributaries from varied springs and sources of many times and climes. The Spanish culture, the American culture, and the Anglo-Saxon culture are similarly constituted.

So we need not blush for the fact that Filipino culture springs from many non-indigenous sources, any more than Europeans are ashamed of their debt to ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome; or that American culture and ideology are a blend of practically all cultures of the world, ancient and modern. The great all-pervading essence that transmuted all these cultural forces into a real Filipino cultural creation is the breath of the Filipino soul, the essence of Filipinism.

Gentlemen, it took us one decade, the first decade of our Republic, to rebuild our beloved country devastated by World War II. After the completion of our national reconstruction, we plunged into the economic development program to which we are committing all our financial, industrial, and intellectual resources. We have accomplished in so short a time a tremendous job. A new, free, prosperous, and great democracy is rising in the Orient that promises to become the Paradise of Oceania. It has achieved spectacular material progress greater than that attained by any one of our contemporary independent republics.

But the important question suggests itself: has our cultural progress been brought into balance with our material well-being? Have we paralleled our material upswing with corresponding spiritual and moral uplift? This industrial mobilization and economic development saga to which we are totally committed, have we built them to a capacity as to nourish and sustain a rich cultural life?

Jesus Christ in his transcendental Sermon at the Mount revealed the cosmic priority of things. He said: "Do not be anxious about what to eat, or drink, or wear on. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His justice, and all these things shall be given you besides." If we were asked as a nation whether we have attended to this priority of things in life, can we truthfully answer yes? Can we honestly say that we are showing equal concern to the nation's moral well-being as to its material possessions? Can we truthfully say that we have more concern for what we are that is life, than for what we have that is worldly possessions?

I am afraid, ladies and gentlemen, that our affirmative answer to these questions will be embarrassed by the realities in our national set-up. Right now we are preoccupied by the steadily and defiantly rising tide of criminality among teenagers. Our movies most popular shows are those which depict lurid and cold-blooded murders and gangsterism. Our press favorite headlines are society scandals, sordid stories of the social flotsam and jetsam. It buries in the obscure pages the stories of heroism, of motherly sacrifices, and acts of charity, love, and kindness, the epic efforts of young artists, and geniuses to survive in a world dead to all sense of beauty. We have evidences all around us that, despite our outstanding achievements in material progress, our cultural attainments for the uplift of the soul, for the moral enrichment of our individual and national life, have lagged behind.

This then is the challenge to the University of San Agustin and all other institutions of learning in our country. This venerable institution radiating with the Christian missionary zeal of its founders and maintainers and enthroned in the grateful hearts of the people it serves, assume cultural leadership in this beautiful part of our country.

It is my considered view that this materialistic impetus we are witnessing must be matched by moral and spiritual revival. Hence, the necessity and the essentiality that the cult of the arts be placed centrally in the education of our youth. The cultural efforts of the nation derives its vitality from the schools and colleges which are charged with the education of the youth. The awakening of the noblest emotions of the heart, the germination of the highest aspirations of man, the deepening of the aesthetic sense of our youth, the stimulation of the higher purposes of life, the cultivation of the three great virtues of the heart—faith, hope and love—these are great goals of our cultural efforts; these are the potent tools with which to fight criminality, poverty, disease, ignorance, and social perversity.

In this connection, let me reiterate what I said in my last message to Congress on the state of the nation, viz: "I urge legislative consideration of the idea to grant qualified educational institutions a margin of curricular freedom to allow educational diversity in educational unity." This university dedicated to perpetuate the memory of one of the greatest saint-philosophers of the Church is an ideal setting for launching the cultural drive to attain these goals. As



such private institution established for the cult of Christian virtues, and proud of its impressive record of service to the nation, it has the curricular flexibility to give central emphasis to art and culture.

In conclusion, may I felicitate fervently, one and all, the new graduates of the University of San Agustin for having achieved on this day the educational goal they have set for themselves. The nation is proud of you. You will constitute part of the upper echelon of the Philippine manpower who will help build up the nation and make it worthy of our heroic past and our glorious future. On behalf, therefore, of the Philippine Republic, I wish you all the fullest measure of success in your chosen profession or vocation. Remember always that he who lives for the greater glory of God and for the happiness of his fellowmen forever dwells in Eternity's sunrise.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1961). President Garcia's speech at the Commencement Exercises of the University of San Agustin, Iloilo City, Saturday afternoon, March 25, 1961. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57(14), 2477-2480.

**Speech of President Garcia at the opening of the 52nd Annual Convention of the Philippine Association of School Superintendents**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the opening of the 52nd Annual Convention of the Philippine Association of School Superintendents**

[Delivered at the Quezon-Roosevelt Memorial Hall, Teachers' Camp, Baguio City, April 4, 1961]

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

FOR a number of years now I have appeared at your conventions, and this fact alone, I believe, should qualify me for membership in your select and exclusive organization—the Philippine Association of School Superintendent (PASS). I would of course be equally as happy if I could also be a member of its sister organization—the Philippine Public School Teachers Association (PPSTA). After all, I was once a teacher in the public schools like you, and had I stayed in the service who knows but that you would have a man other than Secretary Romero—even if he was once a teacher himself—at the head of the Department of Education today.

But levity aside, my friends, I am happy to be with you this pleasant morning, and I am sure that the First Lady fully shares this sentiment of mine. I shall look forward keenly and deeply to renewing my acquaintance with every one of you. Or perhaps—to employ a semantic tone familiar to superintendents—I shall not only renew the acquaintance but endeavor, now and in the days ahead, to strengthen it further.

This brings me forthwith, I suppose, to the theme of your convention this year: “Further Strengthening Public Education to Promote the Socio-Economic Progress of the Philippines.” The theme interests especially where it touches on the matter of social economics. For this is one subject, among others, that has become to me a kind of magnificent obsession if only because, as I said in my state-of-the-nation address to the Congress last January, our country has achieved so much progress of late in the field of economics, as well as in other fields, as to brighten and hasten the steps it must inevitably take in its unending Odyssey toward its sublime Destiny.

Indeed, what we have accomplished to improve the national economy, particularly in further stabilizing and enhancing our fiscal position and in further strengthening and solidifying the Philippine peso, what we have done to develop agriculture, industry, and trade, let alone what we have accomplished in education, social welfare, and community development, constitute significant if not stirring strides in the fast evolving pattern of our society and cannot but be proofs incontestable that progress is our law today. And this law of progressive development, which is the greatest of all laws, we must continue to pursue if we are to find the assurance for a better and happier tomorrow.

But to return to your convention and your theme. I understand that in the study of this theme you have agreed on at least eight areas; namely, human relations, economic security, moral and spiritual life, civic participation, recreational activities, health and physical development, creative aesthetic life, and mental and intellectual development. In other words, you will approach it from all possible angles and bring to bear upon it the many-sided resources of your mind and heart. This is, of course, as it should be. For the progress that we most desire can come only from the enlistment of all the faculties, and is the aggregate result of countless wills and endless efforts. It is a composite of many developments, or to paraphrase Ruskin, the expression of the cumulative art of mankind.

And so, while we devoutly wish to attain economic progress—while we believe in the urgency, for instance, of promoting in the most vigorous manner possible the growth of our nation's economy, exploiting the riches of our natural wealth and increasing production to a self-sufficient level to meet the needs of our growing population—we cannot overlook the other values that, in their totality or integrity, will give substance and strength, direction and distinction, to the affairs of our life. There are, to start with, the physical values—sound body, strength, health—without which, as Rabelais said, life is not life. There are the intellectual values without which we cannot acquire a passion for learning and become men and women of thought who can proceed to answer human questions and

human ends. There are the moral or spiritual values without which, in the emotionally complex world of today, a man of mere physique or of mere intellect would be very much lost. "When we have the lantern of Diogenes, we must have his staff."

This fact of integrity of values is the very ideal that I have espoused on more than one occasion. Thus I have often said that, whereas the man of today can have almost everything material—money, possessions, social position, and the power and prestige that go with them—he cannot on that account be said to have acquired a moral elevation which can sustain itself against all worldly assaults, or that, whereas man have made giant strides in the fields of science and technology and can easily perceive that these surpass the old miracles of mythology, it does not necessarily follow that he thereby matches that knowledge, that advancement, by similar progress in the area of human morals and virtues.

Now this principle of unity can be applied to all other spheres of human activity—to the business of government, for example. Every year the executive department submits its budget proposals, sometimes in "astronomic" figures and often with such statement of justification as to give the impression that, unless the proposals were granted, the entire fabric and framework of government might follow the way to disruption and decay. But governments have no Aladdin's magic lamp and ring, so to speak, and must perforce get their support from taxes—which Cicero, by the way, called "the sinews of the state." And so what is there for us who are in the government service left to do? We regard the government as the continuing concern that it is, consider all phases of its activity, and accord to every phase what appropriations could be made available therefor, considering the fundamental principle of the greatest good for the greatest number.

If I have mentioned these things, it is to underscore the fact once again that, particularly in reference to education, our people have every reason to be proud of what the government has done and is doing. I recall having told you when you called on me at Malacañang last February that the government appropriates nearly or approximately one-third of the national income for purposes of education alone—the figures for the last two fiscal years (1959-1960 and 1960-1961) for the Department of Education being ₱247,386,570 and ₱306,879,520, respectively. For the ensuing fiscal year the Department has been allotted in the Appropriations Act now being discussed in Congress the sum of ₱352,057,370—the biggest share for any department of the government. Of this amount ₱349,338,040—or only about ₱2.5 million less—will go to the Bureau of Public Schools.

This tremendous investment on education has given rise to the vital question of whether the government can continue to give priority to the Department of Education. As far as my administration is concerned there is no doubt that I shall continue to be the chief exponent of spending more, if it needs be, for the education of all our people. It is about time to realize the fact that although we are already spending roughly one-third of our income for education, the highest in the world today percentagewise, we must be prepared to meet due responsibilities inherent to our desire of strengthening our educational system to promote socio-economic progress of the Philippines. In a democracy like ours where the dignity of man is central, education is of uppermost importance. In a democracy which can only succeed with an educated citizenry, the fullest and most continuous education of the masses becomes a political necessity. To achieve economic growth, the development and utilization of the capacities of our people to the fullest degree is vital. The greatest limitations upon the expansion of our economy are deficiencies and lacks in the skills of manpower. Hence, the way to expand prosperity and attain optimum economic growth is by building up a larger reserve of manpower with higher skill and competence. I submit that a renewal of faith in the infinite value and unlimited possibilities of individual development which can be attained only through and by education is imperative.

Based upon the above important premises, I establish the thesis that in terms of our national future, the state function of transcendental importance to us is the education of our people, physically, mentally, and morally.

If education is the all-important task of our Republic, what can be done to strengthen our educational system to make it a potent instrument of national policy?

To answer that big question is what you came here for. I do not expect you in the course of a few days' convention to be able to answer the question fully and thoroughly. But, be that as it may, let me throw into your deliberations a few questions on matters to which your study should be focused. These are

#### 1. Adult Education:

(a) Are we doing enough for educating our adult at best to enable them to read and write? Statistics hereon are not encouraging.

(b) Have we given enough attention to the kind of education outside the formal system? We have apprenticeship in industries, in-service training, correspondence schools, fashion schools, army training schools, and others. But have we developed plans to make full use of this informal way of educating our adults in the rural areas so as to afford the adults the opportunity to grow continuously in learning fitness and utility?

#### 2. Higher Education:

) Should not the private colleges and universities and educational institutions, which absorb 80 per cent of our students on collegiate level, be given incentives by government in the establishment of laboratories and research work for stimulating education in sciences and arts?

(b) Are we giving enough assistance, incentive, and special encouragements to young talents in the form, for instance, of scholarship grants, pensionadoship?

(c) Do private institutions have organizations whose task is to get endowments, gifts, trust funds, etc., to support effectively the raising of the standards of these private institution?

#### 3. Private Education:

(a) Should the immediate control and supervision of private educational institutions subject to the high authority of the Secretary of Education be vested in a commission, council or board of regents of private education to be composed of imminent educators recommended for appointment by these private colleges and universities themselves?

(b) Should the government open up a lending program to deserving and qualified private educational institutions, in very low rates of interest to help them expand or improve their standard in building, curriculum, and social utility?

(c) Should the government open up a lending program at the lowest rate of interest to deserving and promising students?

#### 4. Educational Aids:

(a) Are we evolving a comprehensive plan to utilize the radio, the television, the tape recorder machine, and other new or self-teaching devices to improve our standard of instruction or to effect a massive adult education of our masses? This is a matter worthy of careful consideration.

These are only a few thought-provoking questions relative to the strengthening, expansion, and elevation of our educational system. There are dozens of others which the educators may collate into their discussion. But for all these objectives, the paramount question is that of finances. We have a finance bill pending consideration in Congress, but this is only a beginning of our school financing system. It should continuously be improved and expanded to meet exigencies of a fast developing nation, and this nation should be attuned and organized to attain its high educational objectives.

We Filipinos want to have the best, the most modern, and the most progressive educational system in Asia. We are willing to pay the price. Let us organize ourselves for action.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1961). President Garcia's speech at the opening of the 52nd Annual Convention of the Philippine Association of School Superintendents at the Quezon-Roosevelt Memorial Hall, Teachers' Camp, Baguio City, at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 4, 1961. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57(15), 2681-2685.

**Speech of President Garcia at the formal launching of Fort Santiago and Intramuros Restoration Project**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the formal launching of Fort Santiago and Intramuros Restoration Project**

[Delivered on April 7, 1961]

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

WE ARE met today on hallowed grounds. The earth under our feet once bore the footsteps of heroes and martyrs. The walls around us once resounded to the marching of conquering armies, the painful whish of the whiplash, the shouting of tyrants, and the groaning of their helpless victims. These walls once shielded the might of foreign masters—Spaniards, British, Americans, and Japanese—from the attacks of their enemies. They have crumbled down on various occasions owing to the fury of the elements or the destructive onslaught of war, but they have always been restored, mostly for military purposes.

Now Fort Santiago is once more in ruins. Once again it is being rebuilt. But this time it is we, the legitimate owners who are rebuilding it. And this time this historic Fort is being restored not for military purposes. The technological advances in military science have made it obsolete as military stronghold. But we are rebuilding it to stand forever as a reminder to our people that our independence has not been fed to us on a silver spoon from a silver platter. That, instead, we have won it at the cost of so much blood spilled by martyr-heroes and, of so much tears shed by countless widows and orphans. In this way, we may strengthen oar resolve to treasure our freedom and to keep the ramparts which support them, always physically, morally, and spiritually strong.

Fort Santiago has had a long and checkered history. At the coming of the first Spaniards to Maynilad in 1570, it had been fortified by Rajah Soliman and his grandsires for about a century. The old fortification was made merely of logs alone and earthen embankment, it is true, but it was a proof, nevertheless, that our forefathers had a sense of strategic military values and that the defense of the homeland has always had a high priority status among our people.

When the Spaniards came under Martin de Goiti in 1570, the bronze cannons which guarded the Fort and the valor of our forebears were not sufficient to stop the invaders. Maynilad, and after that, the rest of Luzon and of the country became a Spanish possession.

I shall not tax your patience with the details of the construction of the stone Fort at this site through centuries of Spanish occupation. Let me just say in brief that it was conceived and started by Legaspi soon after his arrival at Maynilad in 1571; strengthened by his successor, Guido de Lavezares; improved by Antonio Sedeno, a priest-engineer; further strengthened and given its present name by Gov. Gomez Perez Dasmariñas around 1592, and rebuilt in 1729 by Gov. Fernando Valdez y Tamon. I might also add that Fort Santiago has been so named because “Santiago” was the battlecry of the invading forces of Martin de Goiti during their successful assault against the wooden fortification of Maynilad in 1570, and Dasmariñas perhaps wanted it to be a reminder to the Filipinos of the might of Spain and the futility of resisting it. Furthermore, *Santiago* happened to be the patron saint of Spain and of Governor Dasmariñas; so the choice was more or less a matter of course.

This historical background may be important to the historians, and to us as a people. But far more important are the historical associations of this Fort to the important chapters in our struggle for liberty and independence. For this historic Fort has performed the dual role of defense bastion and torture chamber.

As a torture chamber it made no distinction between Spaniards and Filipinos. Even Spanish Governors like Geronimo de Silva, Hurtado de Corcuera, Fernando Bustamante, and Jose Raon, to name only a few, were confined

here. So was Bishop Francisco de la Cuesta. But far more numerous were the Filipinos imprisoned here and far greater was the physical suffering inflicted upon them by their wardens.

Nameless forever are the anonymous martyrs who died here of suffocation, hunger, and physical torture. But there stand out a few famous Filipino prisoners who typify the rest. There are, for instance, the three martyr priests of 1872—Burgos, Gomez, and Zamora. Then there were the Lims, the Quirinos, the Elizalde, and the Santoses of the Japanese occupation. But foremost among them is Jose Rizal, our national hero, the greatest Malayan that ever trod this earth.

Rizal's imprisonment here in July, 1892, prior to his banishment to Dapitan, was relatively uneventful, but it is significant in that it is a clue to the kind of administration of justice obtaining in the Philippines at the time. Rizal's confinement and subsequent banishment were not preceded by any form of due process of law. His second confinement, from November 3 up to December 30, 1896, is of paramount significance to us, for it was during this period that he carried out his unsuccessful fight for his life. It was in one of the rooms here that he wrote his immortal poem, the *Last Farewell*, than which no loftier, nobler lines have ever been written by man in any century and any clime! It was in an improvised chapel yonder, still awaiting reconstruction, that he was reported to have been reconciled to the religion of his childhood, as a part of his preparation for his untimely return to his Maker. It was there that he wrote his last lines to Blumentritt, to Paciano Rizal, and to his father and mother. It was also there that he allegedly married the *dulce exirangera* of his last farewell, thereby changing her status to that of "my dear and unhappy wife," partly as a reward for the love she gave him during his lonely days of exile in Dapitan, and partly as a part of his reparation for the moral lapses he had committed, in preparation for his immolation at the altar of justice, racial equality, freedom, and human dignity. Finally, it was there that he started his last walk to Bagumbayan; it was there that he started his last meditation on Christ bearing the Cross, ending at Bagumbayan with his meditation on Christ Crucified.

My friends, there are a few countrymen of ours who would rather see Fort Santiago completely demolished so that henceforth there shall no longer be in this portion of Manila any reminder of the tyranny to which our people have been subjected by the invaders. Every stone, they say, is a mute testimony to the agony that so many hopeless victims suffered here. But, as I said in the beginning, it is necessary to have here a perpetual reminder to our people that we have paid very, very dearly for the freedom we have won. Just as a man raised in ease is quite capable of throwing away the wealth he has inherited from rich parents, and one who has sweated for his possession is likely to conserve it, so our people will be more deeply concerned with the preservation of our liberties if they are aware of the terrible price we had to pay to win them.

But it is not merely as a reminder of the past that we are undertaking restoration work in this historic place. We want it as a repository of our precious historic relics and as a shrine to which our people may repair in times of national stress, to draw the inspiration and moral strength needed in solving the serious problems of the nation. Who knows if some day we may transfer to this place, to be given the reverent care that they deserve, the bones of Marcelo H. del Pilar, Jose Panganiban, and other heroes, which are now kept in small niches inside the dilapidated tomb of the Filipino Veterans at the *Cementerio del Norte*? Who knows if some day we may collect from the jungles, where they are now scattered, the remains of Jose Abad Santos, Vicente Lim, Wenceslao Vinzons, and other heroes that they may forever repose in permanent tombs tended by the loving hands of their grateful countrymen!

Also, we want this place restored so that our friends from across the seas, coming to visit our country, especially during the Rizal Centennial Year, which we have also designated as a year for attracting tourists to see the Orient, particularly the Philippines, may be able to see that we have had a history that entitles us to the respect of our brothers and sisters in other lands. For these mute stones shall always be eloquent witnesses that while there has been tyranny in this country, we as a people have never bended our knees before the tyrants. Be the tyrants white or yellow we have always believed with Rizal that there can never be tyrants where the people are not willing to be slaves. And we have always fought the tyrants with bolos or even with our bare hands, never hesitating to spill our blood, never faltering before the call of duty, in the face of weeping wives and children who are about to become widows and orphans as we leave our homes for the battlefields.

Then we may hope that our foreign friends, having learned how much our freedom means to us because of the price we had to pay for it, will learn to respect our independence just as we respect theirs. Then we may hope that in this

spirit of mutual respect we may be able to help build a just and enduring world peace not only in Southeast Asia but also in every other section of the world.

Cognizant of the paramount significance of this project, the Congress of the Philippines has made an initial appropriation of ₱150,000 for the building to house the Rizal relics. As soon as estimates of additional appropriations needed can be determined, I shall not hesitate to recommend Congressional approval of the supplementary appropriation. Once sufficient funds become available, the reconstruction work shall be carried out with the utmost speed, for this job merits the highest priority in our public works program.

Our program shall not be limited within the confines of this historic Fort. In due time, as resources become available, it will be extended to include the entire wall of Intramuros. Fort Santiago and Intramuros are integral parts of a single historic site. Each will be incomplete without the other.

I should like to stress, before closing, that the reconstruction work we are embarking upon in this historic place is only an initial step in a huge and more vital reconstruction job which we shall undertake as a nation. If we are to attain the maximum level of greatness for which our people aspire, we must reconstruct our scale of values, placing the material and the moral and spiritual where they properly belong.

The Philippines has been called a show window of democracy in Asia. We have reason to be proud of it. But we must strive to deserve the honor. A show window can serve its purpose only when it contains, tastefully and properly arranged, the products it is intended to display. A show window of democracy would not only be useless, nay, it would defeat the very purpose for which it has been made, if it were either empty or filled with an unsightly display.

As you very well know, our display of the beauty and the virtues of democracy has been spoiled lately by so many forms of dishonesty and malfeasance in office. The PCAC during the administration of our late lamented President Magsaysay, and the more vigorous and vigilant PCAPE under the present administration, have been performing a herculean task in ferretting out the malefactors and prosecuting them before the courts of justice. Much has been done but much still remains to be done in this connection. I have often pledged, and in all sincerity I pledge again before the spirits of the honored dead who have hallowed this shrine, that I shall never stop in this thankless task as long as I am President of this country.

Herein, as I see it, is the real value of the reconstruction work which we are launching today. May our people grasp its full meaning and rise to the challenge which it poses! I hereby deliver this check to this patriotic group as my modest contribution for the accomplishment of this task.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1961). Speech of President Garcia at the formal launching of Fort Santiago and Intramuros Restoration Project. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57(17), 3101-3105.



**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia at the Commencement Exercises of the Lyceum of the Philippines**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the Commencement Exercises of the Lyceum of the Philippines and the conferment upon him of the degree  
of doctor of Humanities, Honoris Causa**

[Delivered on April 8, 1961]

AT the very outset, I wish to express my profound thanks to the President and the Board of Trustees of the Lyceum for the distinct honor that is being bestowed upon me today with the conferment of the degree of Doctor of Humanities. I shall treasure this recognition; of my humanitarian services until the end of my days. It shall be my constant endeavor to live up to the highest ideals of this great institution, and to prove a worthy alumnus thereof. To my fellow alumni who are graduating this year into the different professions, may I extend my warmest felicitations for their successful completion of their studies, and my sincere wishes for a full measure of true success in life.

Thanks for the degree. It is a source of great pride for me that this great institution, from whose portals you will issue forth today to the great adventure of life, has, in the relatively short span of years that it has existed, attained a glorious record worthy of the name of that illustrious Filipino who gave it birth, Dr. Jose P. Laurel— statesman, scholar, writer, lawyer, leader of his people, and nationalist.

I have had the signal honor of closely associating with Dr. Laurel in his long career of public service. He was one of our very few statesmen who burned with the passion of Filipino nationalism through varying political climates. The ebb and flow of political fortune did not make him waver in his convictions. His desire for the freedom, progress, and prosperity of our people was an unquenchable fire in his soul.

Like most of our great men, he saw that proper education is the key to the progress and prosperity of the nation. He saw that the future of this country lay in the hands of the youth. He saw that this youth must be guided towards the right path through education. Unlike others, he did not stop at talking about the need for proper education for the youth. He acted and founded this institution which now rises like a pillar of fire to guide many a Filipino youth in their travel to the Promised Land.

Today, I will speak to you about our country, her dreams and her aspirations, her achievements, and her growth. That is to say, her present, her past, and her future.

I am indeed happy as a Filipino that the United Nations recognizes our economic development as spectacular; that the Philippine Republic is the most successful democracy in Asia. How far have we advanced in economics, in education, and in all other human activities? Since the Nacionalista administration took over in 1954, our growth in all phases of national life is something we can definitely be proud of. Let us look at a few facts. The Gross National Product of a country is the market value of the output of goods and services produced by that country's economy. In a general sense, it is the best indicator of a nation's growth. In 1953, the last year of the Liberal Party regime, the gross national product of the Philippines was ₱8.002 billion. The gross national product for 1960 is ₱10.8 billion or an increase of almost 3 billion pesos in seven years.

In 1953, the last year of the Liberal Party regime, there were an estimated 1,468,000 unemployed. In 1959 an actual survey showed that only 749,000 were unemployed. There was a significant drop in unemployment despite the fact that the labor force of the country increases by some 280,000 annually.

When I took over the presidency in 1957, the employed labor force according to the Bureau of Census was 8,149,000. In 1959 the employment figure rose to 8,959,000 or an increase of 810,000 laborers. The increased economic activities in 1960 as evidenced by the marked improvement in the gross national product indicates an even higher level of employment in that year.

The opposition likes to talk about graft and corruption. So let us look at the record. The Liberal regime ending December 30, 1953, was marked by the shocking surplus property scandals, the import control mess, the Chinese immigration quota racket, the systematic looting of government funds, the infamous Buenavista-Tambobong real estate deal, and the bloody crimes committed to rape Philippine democracy in 1949. So when I assumed the Presidency in March, 1957, I inherited the problems of graft and corruption prevailing before my time. I launched a vigorous war in 1958 against graft, and by 1960 a total in round figures of 22,000 administrative cases had been filed. Of this number 14,000 have been decided, resulting in 10,000 convictions and 4,000 exonerations in round figures. The rest are still pending. In addition a total of 740 criminal cases have been filed. About a hundred of these have been decided, resulting in 75 per cent convictions and 25 per cent exonerations.

It is not true that I have dealt drastically only with the small fry. I have fired or punished top ranking officials; such as, undersecretaries, several bureau directors, fiscals, justices of the peace, collector of customs, etc. No official rank or social position or party affiliation can save anybody found crooked or corrupt. Aside from these achievements in the campaign against graft and corruption, it was during my administration that the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Law was enacted.

At this point, I want to call your attention to the fact that it is the Nacionalista administration that flushed out, exposed, and punished corruption in the government without fear or favor. And for doing so, it is tagged as the most corrupt administration. How else can you fight corruption except by exposing it in the press and proceeding against the culprit? We could have done like the administration before our regime, hiding the crime; covering the culprit, and deceiving the people that everything is okay. But as far as this administration is concerned, we are willing to do the dirty job even if in doing so we get splashed over by part of the mud. To this end, the 2,200 administrative cases so far filed will be doubled or trebled as long as it is necessary to reestablish morality in our Government.

In the fight against communism, let us not forget that it was during the past regime that the communist threat to our security reached its peak of armed rebellion. It was the Nacionalista administration that broke the back of the communist movement in the Philippines. It was I who signed into law the bill outlawing the Communist Party. And it was during my administration that the concluding gains in the fight against this godless ideology have been achieved.

In the field of foreign relations, this administration has succeeded to elevate the nation's international prestige. It has earned the respect and esteem of the nations owing to her courageous independent and dignified course of action in international politics. We launched our Filipino First policy, and now this policy is recognized and respected by the whole world. Thus, the "Filipinism" of Laurel, the Nationalism of Recto, and economic independence of this administration constitute the essence of our foreign policy.

Today, our rural communities are humming with renewed vigor and life. The Office of the Presidential Assistant on Community Development (PACD) is proving to be an effective instrumentality in the promotion of the welfare of the rural masses. In the short span of four years, the PACD has become a vital factor in the economic, social, and cultural progress of our country by reawakening in our people in the rural areas their capacity for self-help and an awareness of their ability to recognize their own problems and adopt measures for their solution.

Where once existed barrios wrapped in apathy and sense of hopelessness, there now thrive invigorated communities inspired by democratic grassroots leadership—a strong guarantee against the inroads of communism.

From an initial coverage of 22 provinces in 1956, with 2,000 self-help projects only the community development movement now covers 55 provinces. Now self-help projects undertaken number 29,886 valued at ₱29 million. These projects included food production, varied barrio improvements feeder roads, barrio waterworks and spring development repair of schools, communal irrigation, promotion of public health, and related improvements.

Furthermore, in 1953 before the Nacionalista administration took over, there were 2,000 artesian wells serving 1 200 000 people. Today there are 14,000 artesian wells serving 4,500,000. There were 400 waterworks systems before serving 4,000,00 people. Today, there are 700 waterworks systems serving 6,500,000. There were a total of 84 irrigation systems (national, communal, and private) before serving a total of 15,000 hectares. Today, there are a total of 119 irrigation systems serving a total of 60,000 hectares.

It was because of this quadrupled increase in the amount of acreage subjected to irrigation, plus a more determined campaign to improve production techniques through seed selection, soil conservation, soil analysis, use of fertilizers, etc that the Philippines for the first time in our history was able to become self-sufficient in rice during this administration.

Before 1954 the highest appropriation of the Liberal Party for health was ₱16 million. This year we are spending ₱70 million for health services and next year this will be increased of ₱73 million, or 4 1/2 times as much.

This increased expenditure for health has accounted for the significant decrease in mortality and communicable diseases in the increased number of rural health units, both stationary and mobile, in the increased periodic health checkups among our poor people who cannot afford paid medical attention, in the initiation and spread of the movement to bring doctors and nurses into the hinterlands hitherto unreached by modern medical facilities. For example in the last year of the Liberal Party regime there were 200 hospitals with a bed capacity of 15,000 serving a total number of 200,000 people. Today there are over 300 hospitals with a bed capacity of 25,000 serving a total of 400,000.

In the field of public works and transportation, the advances we have made are also clearly marked. Today we have 6,000 kilometers of unsurfaced roads as against only 4 000 kilometers in 1953. We have now 25,000 kilometers of gravelled roads as against 20,000 kilometers in 1953, we have 6,000 kilometers of asphalted roads as against only 3 000 in 1953; and we have 900 kilometers of concrete roads as against only 700 kilometers in 1953.

In 1953 we had a total of 66 airports, 50 of which were owned by the Government and 16 of which were private. Today we have 102 airports, of which 63 are government-owned and 39 privately owned.

In the field of public land distribution, this administration dealt a death blow to the causes of dissidence and communism by issuing 16,700 land patents or titles in 1954, 44,600 in 1958; and 26,900 in 1959. In addition the land tenure administration has speeded up the expropriation of private landed estate and is pursuing with vigor the cutting up and redistribution of these estates to the tenants occupying them, thus accomplishing the program of giving land to the landless and home to the homeless.

In the field of power resources and electrification, there were, in the last year of the Liberal Party regime, five hydroelectric power plants delivering a total of 300,000,000 kilowatt hours. This number, by the way, includes again, hydroelectric power plants constructed before the war. In contrast, today we have 14 hydroelectric power plants delivering 641,000,000 kilowatt hours.

Power is of extreme necessity in the development of industries, and the boost to industrialization in recent years is partly due to the availability of this increased power source. However, I realize that the growing needs of the country require the production of more power for the industries we are developing, and the increased utilization of water resources for power is a main item in my industrial development plan.

In the field of education our progress has dwarfed the best that the administration prior to 1954 could do in its best year. Whereas, the last budget for education under the past regime was only ₱156 million today, our budget for education is ₱306 million for the current fiscal year. For the next fiscal year, I have submitted to Congress a budget for ₱352 million for education alone. This amount which represents an increase of more than 100% in seven years went into the raising of our educational standards, increase of compensation to our teachers, the building of more schools, the opening of thousands of more classes, etc.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have mostly talked to you about the material progress we have achieved, about our strides in commerce, industry, and agriculture, the development of our natural resources, and the like. But let it never be forgotten that there are higher things in life than these. Let us remember not to sell virtue for wealth, nor liberty for power. The greatest need of today is love. Let the qualities of love, hope, and faith be the predominant elements of your hearts. After all, the education of the heart is the heart of man's education. Let there be more faith in, and fear of, God. Let us keep in mind that the seed you sow in your mind is the harvest you will reap in your character. This means that every good deed you do, every good thought you think, and every good work you say, always brings reward; and every bad thought or deed always brings retribution.

Character is therefore the best and the greatest part of your education. The moral and spiritual values are far above human evaluation. Let us therefore establish our moral character on the foundation of rock, "and the rains of hardships fell, and the floods of reverses came and the winds of adversities blew and beat against it but it fell not because it was founded on a rock."

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1961). Speech of President Garcia at the Commencement Exercises of the Lyceum of the Philippines. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57(17), 3106-3111.

**Speech of President Garcia, read by Health Secretary Elpidio Valencia at the Opening of the 54th Convention of the Philippine Medical Association**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
Read by Health Secretary Elpidio Valencia  
At the Opening of the 54th Convention of the Philippine Medical Association  
and the 2nd General Assembly of the Confederation of  
Medical Associations in Asia and Oceania**

[Delivered at University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, May 1, 1961]

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I AM grateful for the invitation you have extended me to address you this morning. I mean it when I say that when I address a gathering of doctors, such as you are today, I cannot help feeling that, indeed, here are men whose one dedication in life is not only to bless life and be grateful for it but also to preserve life and be reverent about it. In an age where men have seemed to have lost their sense of reverence for the many gifts God had given us, primarily the gift of life, it is truly refreshing and heartening to be with a group whose life work is distinguished by its supreme homage to life itself. In an age when some desperate or selfish and perverted men corrupt the meaning of life and violate its sanctity by cheapening it, and even by wantonly destroying it, it becomes one's moral obligation to crusade for life, to crusade for its worth, and to crusade for it such that people may have a deep and profound reverence for life. This is why I am happy to be with you this morning. Your invitation has given me this opportunity to make my testament of faith in the worth, dignity, and goodness of life itself.

It is a tribute to the Philippine Medical Association that it is now holding its 54th Convention and, too, the second meeting of the General Assembly of the Confederation of Medical Association in Asia and Oceania. I wish to congratulate the Philippine Medical Association for its glorious tradition of leadership in medicine. Your record of the 53 past conventions is a testimony of your solidity and stability as a medical organization. Your 54 years of Philippine leadership in medicine represents the selfless efforts that have gone into the training and systematization of the medical profession. In any professional field, leadership comes naturally to an organization that has earned it. I, therefore, heartily congratulate the Philippine Medical Association, not only for having sustained a dedicated leadership through all these years but also for having shown enough initiative and graciousness to invite the different Asian countries to strengthen even more a cooperative venture in leadership in medical training.

As you all very well know, I have long cherished the hope that in more and more areas—in teaching, economics, political science, culture in general, and now medicine—the Asians may meet on common ground and together support their common purpose and lend to each the resources of all. This is especially important in the field of medical research. Considering that diseases among Asians do have common causes and effects, it would be highly profitable if we can maintain a regular and free flow of information regarding research among the nations in Asia. I have always been for pooled, cooperative efforts; for a deep sense of unity and brotherhood is forged among nations only when they work together for common goals. It is very reassuring to see that in this highly important field of medicine, we have begun our joint efforts so effectively as to ensure more comprehensive areas of cooperation in the future.

The topic of your Asian confab, "Trends in Infant Mortality in Asia and Oceania," shows most of all this reverence for life I cited at the beginning. Your commitment to the preciousness and worth of life—even that or especially that of infants—speaks highly of your noble understanding that life in its more elementary form, at its initial universal oneness with all life, demands purity and full competence in service. Therefore, to concern yourselves with studying ways and means of decreasing mortality among infants makes of you God's caretakers, for you are, by profession, preservers of created life. I have no doubt at all that the deliberations and results of your sessions will be very

enlightening and helpful. I, therefore, congratulate you on the choice of your topic because you have thus shown a primal concern with the most elementary and basic problem of infant mortality.

As a host country, the Philippines is honored by the participation of delegates from Korea, Australia, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Iran, Japan, India, Pakistan, and Burma. On behalf of the Filipino people and especially of the Philippine Medical Association, let me welcome you most cordially into our country.

We hope you will find your stay in the Philippines and your participation in the convention pleasant and fruitful.

I wish further to congratulate the Philippine Medical Association for its perceptive and wise program of administering the maximum of medical care at minimum cost to our people. Some quarters have voiced the possible good socialized medicine can do for the country. On the other hand, the PMA has pointed out, and rightly so, that a better program than socialized medicine is possible through the voluntary medical insurance program. Personally, while I am aware of the merit of socialized medicine and its success in some countries, I also equally realize that our attitudes and ostentation as a people cannot assure for us the success of socialized medicine. I say this because by nature, we Filipinos are deeply personal in our ways, almost cripplingly personal even when we should not be. This is especially true when we consider medical services. The sickness of only one member of a family, necessitating the visit of a doctor, becomes the whole family's concern. The doctor thus summoned becomes another member of the family. The moment he comes to feel the pulse of a patient, he finds himself literally grilled by every adult member of the family.

A visit by a doctor to a Filipino home is usually an occasion also of a social call, where the doctor finds it natural, because necessary, to ask the non-ailing members of the family, the particular ways their fortunes have gone. This is how *personalized* medical services in our country become. Our people want it so. It is what is perhaps very Filipino about us. Socialized medicine does not make this possible. Professional services become public and institutionalized but this our people cannot and will not appreciate. Therefore, I commend the stand the PMA has taken along this line, their more realistic and Filipino-oriented way of maximizing cost.

Moreover, the economy of the country, while vigorous and promising, is nevertheless unequal to the responsibility it shall be made to shoulder under socialized medicine. I heartily and gratefully endorse the PMA program of offering voluntary medical insurance to our people. This takes the good points of both socialized and personalized medical services. I wish to reassure the group here and those of you directly connected with the health program for our people, that I shall work hand in hand with you. I pledge the resources of the Government under your care so that you may truly believe that the Government is deeply committed to do all it can to secure for our people the greatest amount of service they are entitled to. That is why I plead for a more enlightened coordination between government agencies and the private medical practitioners. I should like to assure you that the Government wishes not to hinder but, in fact, to help advance and professionalize the practice of private practitioners by encouraging them to take advantage of the resources which the Government offers for research studies, for example, or for coordinated programs. To unite such efforts and direct our resources wisely should be our common aspiration. I hope that in your deliberations during this convention, you will be able to formulate ways and means of coordinating government and private activities. I shall be most happy to study your proposals and projects. I pledge here and now my full support of your program that will ultimately redound to the welfare of our people.

Safeguarding the health of the nation has always been of top priority in my program for the country; for, as I said, a nation that reverse life cannot but be grateful for it. And being grateful for life, that nation shall so strive to make life constantly honorable, and not only bearable. Life is given to us not for us to bear it as if it were an imposition. Life is given to us not only for us to live it, which is plain common sense; but life is given to us principally so that we may honor it by giving it honorably. This is to reverse life and to be grateful for it.

If we come away from this convention with a very clear conviction that we are all bound by one commitment—the commitment to reverent life—then we shall be true to our professions, true to ourselves, and true most of all to Him who is the creator of all life. In this commitment, may we be blessed forever.

*Source:* **Presidential Museum and Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1961). Speech of President Carlos P. Garcia read by Health Secretary Elpidio Valencia at the Opening of the 54th Convention of the Philippine Medical Association and the 2nd General Assembly of the Confederation of Medical Associations in Asia and Oceania. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57 (18), 3299-3302.

**Speech of President Garcia at the opening of the 54th Convention of the Philippine Medical Association and the 2nd General Assembly of the Confederation of Medical Associations in Asia and Oceania held at University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City. PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH READ BY HEALTH SECRETARY ELPIDIO VALENCIA AT THE OPENING OF THE 54TH CONVENTION OF THE PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND THE 2ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CONFEDERATION OF MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS IN ASIA AND OCEANIA HELD AT UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES IN DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY.**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I AM grateful for the invitation you have extended me to address you this morning. I mean it when I say that when I address a gathering of doctors, such as you are today, I cannot help feeling that, indeed, here are men whose one dedication in life is not only to bless life and be grateful for it but also to preserve life and be reverent about it. In an age where men have seemed to have lost their sense of reverence for the many gifts God had given us, primarily the gift of life, it is truly refreshing and heartening to be with a group whose life work is distinguished by its supreme homage to life itself. In an age when some desperate or selfish and perverted men corrupt the meaning of life and violate its sanctity by cheapening it, and even by wantonly destroying it, it becomes one's moral obligation to crusade for life, to crusade for its worth, and to crusade for it such that people may have a deep and profound reverence for life. This is; why I am happy to be with you this morning. Your invitation has given me this opportunity to make my testament of faith in the worth, dignity, and goodness of life itself.

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*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**Speech of President Garcia read by Labor Secretary Angel Castaño representing the president during the Labor Day Rally**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
Read by Labor Secretary Angel Castaño representing the president during the Labor Day Rally**

[Delivered at the Araneta Coliseum, Quezon City, May 1, 1961]

TO OUR nine million Filipino worker by whose daily toil the Nation lives, I tender my affectionate greetings; and on behalf of the Republic, a grateful salute.

As President, I have faithfully kept my appointment with you every year on this day for the past four years. Most of the time a President has to deal with high matters and abstract situations; not so on Labor Day. Facing the masses of workers, a President feels that these are the people, not in the abstract but in the flesh; so that if you pricked them, as Shakespears said, they would bleed.

It is important for a President to keep to the ground; the poet must hear the grass grow, but a President must listen to the pulse beats of a people; he is rarely permitted the luxury of soaring visions; his is a down-to-earth responsibility.

That is why I have always tried to keep my Labor Day appointment with you and have always reserved in the Malacañang appointment book audience with you. In this way I feel reassured that we shall keep faith with each other come "hell or high water."

I look at you now and I reflect on how rapidly our labor force has expanded between the Labor Days. We had a work force of only seven million at the start of 1954; this has since swelled to over nine million. This swelling of the work force is inevitable given the fact that roughly 800,000 new Filipinos are added to our population every year.

By way of historical contrast, there were only five million Filipinos at the time Rizal was born, and seven million when the Revolution against Spain broke out. Only some 65 years later, we have attained to our present remarkable size of almost 28 millions of which more than nine millions are reckoned old enough to be members of the work force.

Herein lies the heart of our problems as an underdeveloped country. Can we grow fast enough economically to catch up with the annual increase in our population? If we should lag in our economic growth, whatever gains we have made will be wiped out or offset by the growth in population.

It is said, therefore, that children are the main cause of poverty in Asia. Not that it is intended to denigrate children, who are the loveliest people, especially when they are your own. But the economies of the poorer countries seem to strain at the pressure of too many babies getting born.

Remember that most of these babies grow up to be workers, just like all babies before them; and the precise problems is that fewer opportunities than babies are created.

In the face of these forbidding prospects, it gladdens me to know that during the past few years, our country has achieved for our workers a higher general real income per capita; that our workers continue to enjoy one of the highest living standards in the underdeveloped areas which cover two thirds of the globe; and that we are now well on the way in our Philippine Industrial Revolution of achieving our goal—a modern industrial economy which will be productive enough to guarantee permanently fairly adequate income for the great masses of our people.

It is through economic development that the masses of our workers, including those who are merely babies today, and those still unborn, will find their self-fulfillment. Your Government, therefore, is deeply preoccupied with the tasks of economic development. All the energies of my administration, to the extent that they can be directed or influenced by the President, are bent on this great and single-minded goal of our generation: the goal of building a modern agro-industrial economy and founded on the principle of a more equitable sharing of freshly generated wealth among all the classes of our society.

Your Government, however, while engrossed in the tasks of economic development, has not been wanting in attention and care for the more immediate problems of our working people. The record shows that in the atmosphere of freedom deliberately created and fostered by the policies of the Government, the number of trade unions has expanded more than four times since the middle of 1953; and these have been very sizeable gains in this area during the past four years alone.

During my administration, I have seen the institution of collective bargaining firmly and irrevocably implanted in our industrial relations, thus firming up the framework of our economic democracy.

I have seen labor department services modernized and greatly expanded, after my own desire; the enforcement of wage and labor standards carried to new levels of efficiency, in the face of great odds; the extension of all labor services to all the regions of the country through the creation of the twelve regional officers—which are little departments of labor in themselves. I have seen the section on women and child labor raised to the bureau level, as I have desired; and I have seen, too, the launching of a broad apprenticeship program, which, in time, should help us create the skilled man-power required by the economic transformation that we are seeking to bring about. I have the fortune of counting with the fullest cooperation and understanding of one of the most loyal friends of Philippine labor—Secretary Castaño.

But even more than all these, my friends, I feel glad that under my administration we have not only kept our civil liberties, which are like oxygen to the lungs of labor; we have made these freedoms stronger and more than ever secure.

Those of you who have lived through the Liberal reign of terror, and especially those who were made victims of unholy frame-ups between military and civilian agencies, readily understand what I mean. I have seen to it that the Government shall not stand in the way of workers' organizations and the free articulation of their grievances, beliefs and ideas.

No worker should be arrested or jailed except through due process of law. This is my conviction, and I have tried my best to enforce it. If there had been failures here and there, I wish that they had been forcefully and immediately brought to my attention.

I shall not stand for the curtailment of civil liberties and especially of the right to workers' organization, peaceful assembly, and the right to speak and write freely within the limits set by law.

I shall brook no repetition of those grim days when the Liberals occupied the seats of power, the days when a labor leader, no matter how democratic his persuasion, hourly ran the risk of being arrested as a communist, and perhaps shot while trying to escape.

And the labor leader shall have incurred all that, not because he was a subversive, but because he insisted on being free, together with the unions who had placed their faith in him.

So long as I remain President, there shall be no Maliwalu to stain forever the conscience of democratic government.

My enemies call me a communist sympathizer only because I have stood adamant for the proper respect of civil liberties and constitutional rights. Pekin and Moscow call me an American puppet simply because I have nothing to

do with a godless, totalitarian ideology. Let them threaten me. Let them assassinate my character. I still stand and will ever stand for free conscience, free thought and free labor.

I do not believe I shall yield to anyone in my regard and concern for our national security. I was the President who signed the anti-subversion act into law; and as you know, this law carries the death penalty in extreme cases for those established as being engaged in conspiracies to overthrow the Government. And I was the President who signed the law to outlaw all communist parties from our land. I was one of the Asian leaders who dared to stand between the United Nations and the admission of Communist China as member thereof. I was one of the architects of SEATO and the Pacific Charter.

The Government, as it has always done, will protect the national security from elements that menace it. A proper concern for the security of the state obliges us to hunt for communists wherever they may be found, and the labor movement is a favorite target as well as a convenient haven for communists. So are the student movements and the ranks of writers, artists, and intellectuals.

Inevitably, therefore the attention of the Government's surveillance agencies touches these vital groups in our society.

But I do not believe in imperiling the names of many innocent men through an excess of zeal on the part of government agencies. When because of wanton zeal we accuse people as communists and give them a public trial on the basis of vague charges and the flimsiest evidence, we more often than not do democracy a disservice. We dispense thereby with the principle of due process sanctified in our Constitution, without which democracy is reduced to a mockery.

The Constitution and the laws arm us with all the weapons we need to fight the Communists, without transgressing the rights of the people. But the best weapon we can ever oppose to the Communist conspiracy is that which they fear most: a purposeful sobriety and unerring sense of responsibility. The Communists are not ten feet tall. We should never exaggerate their strength. But neither should we underestimate them. And above all, let us not play into their hands by promoting mass hysteria.

Conditions of hysteria are the field in which communists play their best game. And hysteria is such that the rights and freedom commonly associated with a democratic way of life cannot be compatible with it.

Like the other peoples of Asia who are committed to the ideals of freedom, we, the Filipinos, are still engaged in a great and historic experiment: to make democracy work successfully in our region despite poverty, ignorance, and disease.

It is my undying faith that we shall not fail. We must not fail. Philippine democracy is already a rising reality in Asia. And when we say that a democracy is working for our people living under our flag, we are really saying that not only do their lives materially improve, but also that they truly enjoy the freedoms vouchsafed them by their Constitution and by the entire democratic tradition.

Unfortunately, the most dynamic and vital elements in a society are the ones that make full use of the Constitutional freedoms, therefore, these are the elements—workers, artists, and intellectuals who often bear the cruel burden of a senseless, unreasonable, and self-defeating Anti-Communism.

In my own scale of values, my friends, the most effective fighters against Communism are those who do their positive best to contribute to the success of democracy in the Philippines.

I would put in this class the progressive or enlightened businessman together with the responsible unionist; the worker who tries to excel in his line of work so that every one considers him valuable; the citizen who makes full use of his rights, who speaks out, and who does his bit for the success of his community; the professional—whether

lawyer, doctor, dentist, engineer, writer, or nurse—who attains a high degree of individual performance in his field and at the same time faithfully discharges his civic responsibilities as a free men in a free society.

All these do not mean that the Republic underrates the threat of Communism of our national security and to the social peace. Your Government will exert every effort, as it has always done, to ferret out those sinister forces whose sole mission in life is to defeat our democracy and implant upon this land the reign of a brutal, totalitarian, and godless ideology. We shall never relent in the task of safeguarding the peace and integrity of our country against the menace of these few fanatics and subverters whose allegiance belongs, not to this Republic, but to foreign powers. For them we reserve the mailed fist of our Christian, democratic, and peace-loving people. But for them we also raise the symbol of hope should they abandon the life of hatred central in Communism.

But I hope that so long as I am President, we shall no longer be mortified with mass injustices and violence committed against innocent and helpless citizens in the name of Anti-Communism. I pledge I shall brook no Maliwalu incident under my administration. I shall countenance no recurrence of the Liberal reign of terror which inevitably picked its victims from the ranks of the trade unions, the writers, the intellectuals, and the more active youth of our universities and colleges.

But the rest is up to you. The Government is democratic; in accordance with our common principles, the Government creates and guarantees a certain atmosphere of freedom; it creates opportunities, but it is you who are to use them.

Fellow Workers—this is an election year and it is only natural for you to ask where the Administration stand on the different economic questions that affect Labor.

Let me open my heart to you. There you will feel the pulse-beat of gratitude to labor, to you, for the resolutions too many to be read here from labor and trade unions all over the country, as well as from industries, big and small, in which resolutions you have reiterated your confidence in, and support of, my humble administration and with special reference to my economic policies and programs.

I wish to take advantage of this opportunity to express my undying gratitude for the continued faith and confidence in my administration you have manifested by these resolutions. It gives me more courage. It gives me more inspiration. And I pledge to you that as long as I live, I shall dedicate to the last breath of my life, my heart, my mind, and my arms to the following Articles of Faith:

- (1) I believe that economic democracy is an essential bulwark of political democracy.
- (2) I believe that to keep the national economic organization democratic the powers, functions, and resources of the State should be utilized to hasten and promote free competitive enterprise.
- (3) I believe that our constant endeavor should be to create and maintain conditions under which there will be afforded maximum employment, maximum production, and maximum purchasing power of the peso.
- (4) I believe that monopolies should always be prevented, and a system of broader diffusion of economic wealth be achieved and maintained.
- (5) I believe that workers, investors, and also consumers should be protected from economic exploitation; such as, monopoly, profiteering, manipulations of prices, and dozens of other ways.
- (6) I believe that one of the causes of wastage of economic vitality is the stifling of individual initiative and creativity.

I therefore stand for the equality of opportunities between the children of the poor and the rich, through the maintenance and progressive expansion of our educational system to wipe out totally ignorance and illiteracy, and to make every Filipino citizen a positive factor for good.

(7) I believe that it is of the essence that we maintain at all times a sound and vigorous economy. To that end, Science should be called to the service of the nation to develop a manpower trained and dedicated to keep a steady supply of new invention, new discoveries of materials, new industries, and new opportunities for employment. In this connection a broad and well endowed system of fellowship and scholarship in Science should be opened to Labor.

(8) I believe in low-cost housing project, and the providing of other services needed for rapid and more expansive urbanization, especially in new industrial areas.

(9) I have faith in the social-conscious, welfare-conscious, and God-conscious of Filipino labor. I therefore stand on the rock of conviction that the greatest natural resource the Philippine Republic possesses is the Filipino laborer.

On these Articles of Faith I stand. To fulfill them I stand on this Tablet of Pledges.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1961). Speech of President Garcia read by Labor Secretary Angel Castaño representing the president during the Labor Day Rally. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57(20), 3700-3705.

**Speech of President Garcia, read by Foreign Affairs Secretary Felixberto Serrano before the 7th Asian Peoples Anti-Communist League Conference, May 3, 1961 Speech  
of**

**His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines**

**Read by Foreign Affairs Secretary Felixberto Serrano  
Before the 7th Asian Peoples Anti-Communist League Conference**

*[Delivered at the U.S.T. College of Medicine, May 3, 1961]*

TO BE FREE, to resist restraint, to avoid capture—this is one of the most deeply rooted instincts of every living creature. Man throughout his history has yearned for freedom, worked for it, and fought for it. The noblest pages of man's chronicle record the blood and lives he has paid for it. Yet, today hundreds of millions have been stripped of freedom—in some instances only newly won—and subjected to rule which turns back the clock to serfdom. Under Communist rulers, they enjoy no more human rights, no more human dignity than the slaves of ancient Rome—however much the bars of their cells may be gilded.

To free men everywhere this fact is a matter of gravest concern. How did it happen? How can it be kept from happening to other free men, to other free societies? No other questions of our times clamor more urgently for answers and action. I welcome this opportunity to submit some suggestions.

It is my belief that we have little to fear from Communism, but that we have much to fear from Communists. In this seeming paradox I see Communism as an idea, as a way of life, as prophecy and performance so riddled with fallacy, contradiction, and failure as to be rejected by any informed and matured mind. Let us note just a few examples.

According to Karl Marx, the lot of the worker in capitalist free societies inevitably would deteriorate and his misery intensify. Yet, today it is in these countries where capitalism is most firmly established that the worker enjoys unprecedented high standards of living, where he is free to organize and bargain collectively, where his unions have grown so powerful and wealthy as to furnish financial assistance to capitalists who have suffered reverses. Where Communism has ruled for almost half a century and resources are richly abundant, the worker still receives little more than essentials for his labor, has no choice in his employment, can belong only to a government-controlled union, and is denied even the right to strike when over-time is exacted as a "patriotic donation."

According to Marx, only the total victory of Communism could abolish imperialism and colonialism. Today the liquidation of old empires is almost complete, the transition in many cases having been orderly and attended by goodwill and continued friendship between the newly independent and the former sovereign. The world's concern today is with the new imperialism of international Communism, which by force of arms and police coercion has clamped its iron rule upon such diverse peoples as the Poles, Czechs, Hungarians, and Balts of Europe; to the Chinese, Koreans, and Vietnamese of Asia; and which now seeks to add the Congo, Laos, and Cuba to its conquests.

According to Marx, the free nations were doomed to annihilate each other in series of competitive wars for markets. Yet, out of the last war came the unique demonstration of victor helping vanquished to speed reconstruction and resume useful cooperation with the rest of the free world community. And it has been these same free nations which, in the United Nations organization, have taken the initiative in working toward a world rule of law, rather than force. The threat to world peace today comes solely from the aggressive expansionist policies of the Communist block and its obstruction of all efforts to achieve peaceful solutions of world crises.

Illustrations of the bankruptcy of Communism as an idea could be multiplied a hundred-fold, were there time and need. As for some of the more spectacular accomplishments of the Communist world, I would say that the building of the pyramids of Egypt were equally wondrous for their time, and equally costly in the blood, sweat, and lives of slave labor. And a parallel of military power may be drawn from Caesar's legions, likewise easy to deploy as long as captive peoples could be made to feed and equip them.

At this point, however, it is important to emphasize that we have no reason to draw comfort from the failure and inadequacies of Communism. On the contrary, it might be argued that the inability of Communism to compete for the mind of mankind in the free open market of ideas has spurred them to sharpen the techniques of subversive conspiracy which today threaten the survival of free men and a free world. The Communist today gives little thought to socialistic Utopias or to preaching his political doctrine. To the uninformed he directs the big lie and the promise never intended to be kept. To the more sophisticated, he becomes invisible, skillfully manipulating free men against each other to accomplish his ends.

It is significant to note that no Communist government has ever been voluntarily chosen or willingly accepted by those governed. Invariably it has developed out of crises involving other protagonists, the Communist minority taking advantage of an instable situation to seize power. Invariably, Communist rule has required extreme police state coercion to keep it in power. And invariably, a study of the crises which facilitated Communist take-over reveals their agents as prime instigators and provocateurs.

How do we recognize the Communist? How do we detect his destructive activity? That is the crux of our problem. There might be a dozen seated in this very audience. The Communist might look like—or even be—a merchant or a clerk, a doctor or a teacher, a housewife or a student. He might be motivated by ill-informed idealism or crass ambition, by neurotic hatred or cynical opportunism, by blackmail for some personal indiscretion or threat to a loved one. No device to the underworld is alien to Communist discipline.

You probably would not immediately recognize the Communist if he sat next to you. He would not openly espouse Communism or even suggest the violent overthrow of our system. But he would miss no opportunity to chip away at the foundations of our way of life, systematically working to bring about that situation of unrest or friction or fear or hatred which he and his fellow conspirators consider the proper working climate for their take-over program. Such is the harshness of party discipline that he considers himself on duty every waking hour of the day—at home, at his place of work, in his social contacts. No opportunity is missed to advance “the cause.” No assignment—not even treason to his own nation—is too dirty for his faithful execution.

A homely analogy of the Communist method might be the team of pick-pockets. One provokes your anger or excitement while the other offers help and solicitude. Between the two you lose your wallet. But where the law might apprehend the pickpocket and restore your wallet, when the Communist crime is consummated he becomes the law.

This brings us to discussion of counter-measures, of how a free world of laws can protect itself from the subversive conspiracy which recognizes no law but takes advantage of every law to protect and disguise its sinister operations. We must no longer lull ourselves into a sense of false security by saying that freedom and democracy can compete with the socialist ideology in competition for men’s minds, because this is not the nature of the competition. Nor can we say that social and economic betterment will, of themselves, afford us security, because a prime objective of the enemy is to delay or obstruct such betterment, and because the efficacy of his methods have been demonstrated even where living standards and political maturity are high. What we must face up to is that we are at war, an unconventional form of war, it is true, but a form no less productive of human misery and enslavement. The current agonies of the Congo and Cuba, of Laos and Vietnam and Korea, testify to that.

It may be argued that some of the devices of subversion are not new and that sound societies have withstood them in the past. Lies, distortion, hate and fear-mongering, disruptive rumors—all have been experienced by man since the first organized community. But never before in man’s experience have they been developed and disseminated with such scientific subtlety and precision, and on a coordinated global scale. It is as though a human body had gradually built resistance to a virus, only to be suddenly attacked by an infinitely more virulent and deadly strain. To delay medication while waiting for the body to develop natural resistance would be fatal.

The Communist party is outlawed in this country, the law prescribing punishment for membership and for the performance of the usual revolutionary acts. But the enemy has lost no time in developing methods of evasion, with tactics of even greater potency. Those to whom the law might apply now remain concealed and avoid direct action. They operate through tools whose names appear on no membership rosters, whose acts—taken singly—stay just



within the pale of the law, attaining their destructive force only in cumulative form. Thus, however much our security agencies may be aware of what is happening to take legal action becomes almost impossible without impairing some of the human rights and civil liberties which are a cherished part of our free and democratic social and political system.

This is our dilemma, and we are informed that it is common to the rest of the free world in varying degrees. It is generally agreed that remedial action must not destroy the very freedoms we seek to protect from the Communists. But it is also generally agreed that survival demands a solution.

In our legislature the Committee on Anti-Filipino Activities is pursuing an inquiry into subversion in the educational sector. I am told that other lines of inquiry into other sectors are contemplated. These investigations I am sure will be conducted with objectivity and with a high sense of responsibility commensurate with the gravity of the problem. All those involved, as well as the general public, will likewise contribute the fullest measure of their patience and sober judgment. The stakes are too high to expect less.

While waiting for the subject to be thoroughly explored and specific recommendations offered, however, we must not delay or neglect those counter-measures already available to us. Public information and vigilance is one such. It is important that every one of us understands the enemy's objectives and his methods.

His strategy at the domestic level is to bring about the collapse of our social, political, and economic institutions, taking advantage of the ensuing confusion to seize control and impose the rule of international communism. His global strategy is to isolate us from defensive alliances, facilitating our conquest and commensurately weakening the Free World's collective security system. Whatever we read or hear contributing to these strategic goals, along with its source, must therefore be scrutinized with utmost care to determine whether it is enemy tactic or an honest expression of criticism or bias. To label every criticism or controversial opinion Communist-inspired is no less irresponsible than shouting "witch-hunt", and "McCarthyism" whenever free men undertake to review their defenses. Both are damaging to the cause of freedom.

Another approach which seems warranted by the circumstances is a careful redefinition of our rights as free men in a free world under crisis. We should not lose sight of the tradition that, when so dictated by the common good, free men have not hesitated to assume voluntarily such limitations upon their freedom as may be required. It would appear to be no violation of any basic right, for example, to require that in vital strategic sectors known to be enemy targets of infiltration, key posts be held only by those whose rejection and opposition to the Communist system and its objectives is complete, unequivocal, and supported by the record. This would seem a minimum security precaution.

Out of this conference I am sure that other short range expedients and longer range remedies will be evolved. What is immediately heartening is the growing international understanding that this is a global threat calling for global counter-action as firm and resolute as any military action.

If the tone of my remarks has been rather grim, I hope you will understand that I do not speak in a spirit of despair. That final victory will not be enjoyed by the Communists I am confident. The gift of freedom having been bestowed upon us by God, it is inconceivable that He would permit it to be wrested from us those who deny Him—except perhaps as a test of our fitness to protect it. There is still time for us to meet and to pass such test successfully, provided we act swiftly, with intelligence and with enduring dedication.

*Source: Presidential Museum and Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1961). Speech of President Carlos P. Garcia read by Foreign Affairs Secretary Felixberto Serrano before the 7th Asian Peoples Anti-Communist League Conference. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57 (20), 3706-3710.

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This is our dilemma, and we are informed that it is common to the rest of the free world in varying degrees. It is generally agreed that remedial action must not destroy the very freedom we seek to protect from the Communists. But it is also generally agreed that survival demands a solution.

In our legislature the Committee on Anti-Filipino Activities is pursuing an inquiry into subversion in the educational sector. I am told that other lines of inquiry into other sectors are contemplated. These investigations I am sure will be conducted with objectivity and with a high sense of responsibility commensurate with the gravity of the problem. All those involved, as well as the general public, will likewise contribute the fullest measure of their patience and sober judgment. The stakes are too high to expect less. While waiting for the subject to be thoroughly explored and specific recommendations offered, however, we must not delay or neglect those counter-measures already available to us. Public information and vigilance is one such. It is important that every one of us understands the enemy's objectives and his methods.

His strategy at the domestic level is to bring about the Elapse of our social, political, and economic institutions taking advantage of the ensuing confusion to seize control and impose the rule of international communism. His global strategy is to isolate us from defensive alliances facilitating our conquest and commensurately weakening the Free World's collective security system. Whatever we read or hear contributing to these strategic goals, along with its source, must therefore be scrutinized with utmost care to determine whether it is enemy tactic or an honest expression of criticism or bias. To label every criticism or controversial opinion Communist-inspired is no less irresponsible than shouting "witch-hunt", and "McCarthyism" whenever free men undertake to review their defenses. Both are damaging to the cause of freedom.

Another approach which seems warranted by the circumstances is a careful redefinition of our rights as free men in a free world under crisis. We should not lose sight of the tradition that, when so dictated by the common good, free men have not hesitated to assume voluntarily such limitations upon their freedom as may be required. It would appear to be no violation of any basic right, for example, to require that in vital strategic sectors known to be enemy targets of infiltration, key posts be held only by those whose rejection and opposition to the Communist system and its objectives is complete, unequivocal, and supported by the record. This would seem a minimum security precaution.

Out of this, conference I am sure that other short range expedients and longer range remedies will be evolved. What is immediately heartening is the growing international understanding that this is a global threat calling for global counter-action as firm and resolute as any military action.

If the tone of my remarks has been rather grim, I hope you will understand that I do not speak in a spirit of despair. That final victory will not be enjoyed by the Communists I am confident. The gift of freedom having been bestowed upon us by God, it is inconceivable that He would permit it to be wrested from us those who deny Him—except perhaps as a test of our fitness to protect it. There is still time for us to meet and to pass such test successfully, provided we act swiftly, with intelligence and with enduring dedication.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1961). Speech of President Garcia read by Foreign Affairs Secretary Felixberto Serrano before the 7th Asian Peoples Anticommunist League Conference. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57(20), 3706-3710.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Garcia before the Third Labor-Management Congress

Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
Before the Third Labor-Management Congress

[Delivered at the UE Auditorium, May 11, 1961]

CHAIRMAN  
SECRETARY  
DISTINGUISHED  
FRIENDS AND DELEGATES:

DALUPAN,  
CASTAÑO,  
GUESTS,

THE great drama of our times centers in the attempt to extend the human frontiers into boundless space; the world is a stage, and at this moment, there are but two performers on it, with the names of Gagarin and Shepard—the rest are spectators.

But that is only a metaphor. Neither Gagarin nor Shepard, neither the U. S. nor the Soviet Union, is the hero of this great drama; the hero is an abstract entity—the human spirit, the Daring One who, speaking through Faust, reproved the devil thus:

*“Poor devil! What have you to give?  
Was any human spirit struggling to ascend  
Such as your sort could ever comprehend?”*

The conquest of space is nothing but an extension of our attempts to master our environment. The spectacular for the moment dazzle us; but in the end we realize that a Gagarin or a Shepard flying into space, and a Juan de la Cruz building a great dam to modernize his primitive agriculture belong to the same genus of heroism.

In either case, it is the human spirit daring and conquering new frontiers. The entrepreneur founding a new industrial plant; the scholar delving into the obscure past for materials to illuminate the history of his people; even anyone who sets up in new business ventures—all these know the feeling of passing into, and overcoming a new frontier. For truly, the frontier is where you find it. It consists in self-surpassing. Every man is his own Gagarin or Shepard; as T. S. Eliott said it—

*“And so each venture  
Is a new beginning, a raid on the inarticulate.”*

The frontier is where you find it. For the Filipino people, as we march past the middle of the 20th Century, the frontier lies much closer to earth than above it; it consists in the earthly task of economic development—setting up factories, modernizing farms, opening up new lands on the rims of jungles.

Earthly indeed this task seems to us; but in the perspective of history, it acquires a grandeur and a magnificence that even the conquest of space cannot rival. For what can be grander than the conquests of mass poverty, with its concomitants, disease and ignorance?

It is by means of economic development that the burden of poverty, the ancient curse of man, had been lifted from men's back in a significant area of the world—what we know as the West, thus extending to an unheard-of extent the areas of human freedom and human possibility. Unfortunately, the Western advance barely dragged the bulk of mankind after it. That is why a tremendous gap parts the world today between, on one hand, the developed countries—the prosperous one third of the world—and the underdeveloped countries, which make up the penurious two-thirds of mankind.

This gap can be expressed statistically in terms of incomes. Asians, Africans, and Latin Americans constitute 65 per cent of the world's population; and they produce only 17 per cent of the world's income. The remaining one third of the world, which we call the West, accounts for more than 80 per cent of the world's income.

The gap is indeed wide—and according to the United Nations estimates it is getting wider still. We know, however, that this is not gap in human intelligence, not a difference in the native capacities of the world's races; it is a gap in development. The Western countries underwent their industrial revolution more than two hundred years ago; and today it is our turn to have ours. But in the meantime, rather than politely wait for us to catch up, the West has already entered the threshold of a second industrial revolution powered by nuclear energy, and of which Gagarin and Shepard represent but the opening chapter.

But to catch up with the West is not right now the measure of our ambition as a people. We shall rejoice with them in their space and other scientific glories; we shall follow with vicarious pride the conquest of newer and farther frontiers by their Gagarins and Shepards. But the same human spirit that lobs a man into space and sends robots to the interstellar universe we shall employ to build factories, furnaces, and iron shops; build feeder roads, bridges, and wharves to connect our barrios and towns; install more schools, health clinics; and everywhere extend the frontiers of our economic and social development.

The frontiers of economic development, no less than the frontiers of space, require the sturdy, pioneering and heroic will of a Gagarin or a Shepard. Challenges may vary, but the quality of the human response, if it be heroic, is ever the same. What was Andres Bonifacio but a Gagarin of his own time, a mere worker who, with boloes and bamboo lances, launched the first nationalist revolution in the history of Asia? What was Mabini but a Gagarin of the intellectual and the moral worlds, conceiving and founding a modern republic fifty years ahead of his time? And Rizal? Rizal was a hundred times Gagarin. He spent his whole life exploring and extending the frontiers of liberty, in an Asia darkened with timeless despotism.

The heroic spirit runs strong in the Filipino people; but it has known too many brilliant flashes for us to be convinced of its constancy. In its perverse form, this spirit assumes that shape of get-rich-quick schemers; but its most characteristic expression is the endless number of beginnings that we make,—whether civic, business, literary, or political projects—good, promising beginnings that never go farther.

We have matured enough as a people to be suspicious of sudden bursts of energy which, like the words we speak, perish in the very saying. The tasks of economic development will resist all our *ningas-kugon* enthusiasm. They call for large stretches of sustained effort, a patience and perseverance, a steady quality of the will for which, as a people, we are exactly noted.

We are all impatient to solve our problems, to abolish all the great ills of our society and lessen human suffering in our midst; and a President, it seems to me, cannot help being the most impatient of the whole lot. For more than most, he knows the gap between the ideal and the means to its attainment; the gap between his own dream for his people and the reality of their suffering.

Powerful as the President is, he must be prone to feelings of helplessness when he sees that his programs, excellent as they are, do not work as well and as quickly as a magic wand in realizing those transformations that he desires for his people. And no President is so bereft of soul and sensibility that his heart would not quicken at some modest success achieved here and there by the efforts of his people; thus, he does not begrudge himself the time spent in inaugurating a new strip of road, a factory or a mill, or a new hydroelectric plant.

Yet hard as we pray and hard as we reproach ourselves, the fact remains that in this business of economic development, there are no short cuts. No, there might be, but we shrink from the heavy cost of blood and lives that it entails—for this is the method of wholesale regimentation of the people by Communism. We even shrink from any prospects of more extensive government participation in business and industry, associating this in our minds with Socialism.

We have in fact elected to undertake our economic development along a path already suspect in a predominantly Socialist Asia. I mean that we have chosen to make private enterprise the mainstay of our economic development. The government is to create the climate, and private enterprise is to assume the major work of development, not the government itself. This is our policy. And as I have indicated, this is a lonely choice.

As to whether our system of private enterprise will prove a match for the socialist systems taking form in such countries as India, Indonesia, and Burma, as the basic instrument for economic development, we cannot exactly determine now. To a large extent, it is going to be you, Filipino labor and management, who will decide the answer to this question. The Government, of course, does not and will not disclaim its share of the responsibility. But in an economy of private enterprise, neither can you divorce yourselves, as free management and free labor, from the responsibility or success of our system.

Present trends from a purely pragmatic point of view give grounds to hope that we have chosen wisely. The highest rate of economic growth in Asia today, according to informed sources, is taking place not in the socialist economic but in the private-enterprise economies of Japan and the Philippines.

In the Philippines in particular, we have cause to be proud of the significant strides that have been attained here, mainly to the credit of Filipino management and the Filipino workers. The United Nations statistics established the Philippines as the fastest-growing economy in the ECAPE region, over a period of one decade.

Consider that our gross national product has registered a spectacular increase by P600 million in the year 1960 alone. This GNP for last year stood at P10.8 billion as against P10.2 billion in 1959.

Our agricultural crop yield last year rose by 3 per cent over the preceding year's level.

Our manufacturing production in 1960 scored a remarkable increase of 8.3 per cent, surpassing the previous peak level attained in 1959 which was 7.8 per cent.

In terms of electric power output, this rose by 80 per cent during the first nine months of 1960 over that of the corresponding period in 1959.

The impact of this economic development has created an estimated 810,000 new job opportunities, during only the two-year period from 1957 to 1959, according to the consciously conservative estimate of our statistical information services.

Statics, however, can only give us a sketchy picture. No amount of figures can give a fair and adequate representation of the great efforts that are being mustered by all sectors of our people to accelerate our economic development. I still think that, important as we all are over the rate of our program, we are right now chalking up a record in the rate of growth no other country in Asia can match at this time, save only our usual exception, Japan.

This achievement speaks highly of the caliber of Filipino management and Filipino labor. It speaks highly of all our people, but especially those entrusted with the tasks of economic leadership, as we move forward across the frontiers of economic development to our vision of a modern, industrial Philippines, the same country that Jose Rizal saw and foretold in his prophetic essay, "The Philippines a Century Hence."

But that vision lies yet in the horizon, and we can but pause briefly from the tasks of hurdling the frontier to indulge in romanticizing the future. The Filipino's per capita income has increased remarkably in a few years to a new level

estimated at close to P396. But this remains still far below the level of income in the develop countries; it still marks us only too closely as an underdeveloped country.

Under our Three-year Economic and Social Development Program effective until next year, it is the goal of our economic policy to raise this per capita income to the level of P417, not in monetary, but in real terms. I am confident that, studying present signs, we not only will attain this goal but actually surpass it.

But as I said, the long, tedious tasks of economic development will continue to require our unremitting effort and a steady will. We cannot rest content with any achievement today, no matter how impressive. We are winning the war against mass poverty, ignorance, and disease, but the enemy is stubborn, as one would expect of an entity as old as human history itself.

Though a team representing our nation's total productive force, Filipino labor and management will not escape the strain of many conflicts between them. But already it is a source of pride for many Filipinos that under the common impulse to make over this land into a better country, Filipinos on both sides of the industrial fence have so far successfully maintained a peaceful but dynamic relationship, which finds expression in voluntary cooperation and increasing productivity.

To this relatively mature attitude on the part of Filipino labor and management we must credit, I believe, a great part of our gains in economic development. It is an attitude remarkable in a country just now starting its own industrial revolution. And it is an attitude that is splendidly served by Labor-Management Congresses of this kind.

The heroes of this period of our history are those from the ranks of both labor and management who, by their imagination, skill, and spirit of enterprise are moulding here, on this ancient land, a modern nation; and who, in the process, are helping to conquer mass poverty and to lift Filipino humanity to a higher level of life.

Economic development—industrialization—modernization, especially in technology, these are the frontiers waiting to be conquered by the Filipino spirit and the Filipino will. That spirit and that will work equally through labor and management, and indeed, through every one of us. With it let us fashion together a new country, where poverty is no longer festering wound, but a scar of history; where the good things of life made by honest human labor are in abundance, and are fairly shared; and where, unshackled from poverty and disease, the Filipino nation shall direct its heroic spirit to higher goals and newer frontiers of achievement.

Finally, the Space Age, which is already a reality, brings in revolutionary changes of undetermined magnitude. One thing is already certain and, that is, that change of technology will have to be at much faster velocity. For instance, in five or six years, the jet plane may have to be junked for planes five times as fast. Television broadcasting may be done from stellites so as to cover the whole world. Fuel light enough for interplanetary navigation is a vision near realization. The science of electronics is changing with amazing speed and so automation has become an irresistible reality that Labor-Management will have to face. The miracles in chemistry (we have particular interests in sucro-chemistry because of our abundance of sugar is on the eve of revolutionizing or doing over practically all the industries. Only one invention or discovery in electronics, chemistry, or nuclear science may be sufficient to make obsolete what we are yet building now.

But the Space Age is a reality and we cannot live out of, or away from, it. We have to change our technology faster. We have to endow our science foundations for research in basic and applied sciences to unprecedented proportions. We have to change our educational system to endow it with a capacity to train and prepare all citizens for productive or creative enterprise—the only way to full employment of our educational system capable to produce technicians and technologists and workers versatile enough to change over their work or career three or four times in their lifetime. Our investment figures will have to rise from millions to billions. Yes, gentlemen, the Space Age ushers us into an area of undreamed of possibilities, of boundless opportunities, to achieve indivisible universal peace and happiness. I have faith that the Filipino management and labor will prove worthy of the 21st Century.

*Source: Presidential Museum and Library*



Garcia, C. P. (1961). Speech of President Carlos P. Garcia before the Third Labor-Management Congress. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57(21), 3897-3902.

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia at the Labor Ministers Conference, May 18, 1961**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the Labor Ministers Conference**

*[Delivered at WHO Building, May 18, 1961]*

YOUR  
DISTINGUISHED  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

EXCELLENCIES,  
GUESTS,

THE REPUBLIC of the Philippines is deeply honored for having been chosen the site of this First Asian Labor Ministers Conference. It is my understanding that the purpose of this conference is to hammer out among the leaders of labor in Asia, of whom your excellencies are most outstanding, a basis for a collective effort in Free Asia to attain and maintain an effective democratic economy in Asia where free labor and effective management collaborate and cooperate to raise the prosperity of the region and afford every citizen a just share of the comforts of modern life.

We are faced with grave issues, the most important of which is the preservation of the peace of mankind. This conference here will make a positive contribution to the solution of this great issue via the economic approach by pooling our resources to combat poverty, illiteracy, and disease.

Let this convention be guided, therefore, by the spirit of the Philadelphia Declaration that “poverty anywhere constitutes a menace to prosperity everywhere.” It is about time it is realized that the ideology which would solve this issue by sowing seeds of hatred against our free institutions and which would capitalize on the miseries and frustrations of the poor and the ignorant, is not the road to industrial peace and world peace. It is about time it is realized that under the infallible working of cosmic law, we cannot win the heart of humanity by the fostering of hatred among social classes, or among nations. It is about time to realize that we cannot annul the freedom of millions of mankind, stifle human dignity, and deny the Supreme Being, and then achieve world peace. The way to peace is still the way of justice and love and freedom. The fight for peace is the fight against poverty, disease, and ignorance everywhere. Faith and hope and love are still the redemptive forces for all mankind.

Here in the Philippines we have tried this approach by the enactment of progressive labor measures, outstanding of which are the Industrial Peace Act, better known as the Philippine Magna Carta of Labor, the Minimum Wage Law, the Blue Sunday Law, the Social Security Act, and the Workmen’s Compensation Act.

Believing that land reforms is one of the fundamental principles of social justice, we have also instituted the Land-for-the-Landless program. A high level of agricultural production is likewise being undertaken to accelerate our economic development. An orderly process of economic growth is only possible to the extent the agricultural section of the economy lends full support to the scheme of development.

We offer these epoch-making labor and social legislations to you for examination for whatever they may be worth.

Distinguished delegates:

I have come here mainly to extend to you the welcoming embrace of the Filipino people. I have come to inform your excellencies that we Filipinos are with you in the great objectives of this convention. I know you are determined to reach at some concrete accord that will redound to the common benefit of all free Asian peoples.

May the Convention be a complete success.

*Source:* **Presidential Museum and Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1961). Speech of President Carlos P. Garcia at the Labor Ministers Conference. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57 (23), 4247-4248.

**Speech of President Garcia at the Labor Ministers Conference Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the Labor Ministers ConferenceConference**

[Delivered at WHO Building, May 18, 1961]

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Garcia, C. P. (1961). Speech of President Garcia at the Labor Ministers Conference. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57(23), 4247-4248.

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia at the kick-off ceremonies of the Cerebral Palsy 1961 Fund Campaign**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the kick-off ceremonies of the Cerebral Palsy 1961 Fund Campaign**

[Held at Malacañang Social Hall, May 19, 1961]

MY FRIENDS:

I ALWAYS find the time, in spite of the busy schedule that Presidents usually have, to attend ceremonies such as this in order to launch a worthy and worthwhile fund campaign. My heart bleeds, as yours must also, for the more unfortunate among us. And so, we are gathered here for the noble purpose of starting officially the fund campaign intended to strengthen further our efforts to curb that dreaded disease of cerebral palsy.

Sponsored by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks since five years ago, our society has shown special and extraordinary concern for the Cerebral Palsy Project. I say special and extraordinary concern because the victims of cerebral palsy are mostly children whose usefulness to society and to themselves will forever be lost if nothing is done to cure their affliction. No sight is more heart-rending and nothing more tragic than that of a small child who is saddled with grief and the pain of his affliction because he has been temporarily deprived of the use of his limbs or because he is mentally retarded.

Statistics show that there are about 40,000 such children in the Philippines today. The records also show that some 1,400 babies are born every year suffering from this disease thereby swelling the number of the afflicted annually. These children if not treated and cured will remain as permanent burdens to their parents and to the community as a whole. On the other hand successful treatment would convert them into happy and useful citizens, definite assets to themselves and to their country as well.

This Cerebral Palsy Project of the Elks Club is a truly magnificent example of Philippine-American cooperation. Started only half a decade ago, the project has been able to establish complete clinic in the National Orthopedic Hospital Compound in Mandaluyong, Rizal, and only last year a branch clinic in Iloilo to serve the West Visayas region. Hundreds of patients have been and are still being treated in these clinics. Likewise, it has been found advisable to send Filipino doctors abroad to specialize in the treatment of this affliction.

I want to mention here also that I am impressed with the efficiency and dedication to duty with which the Elks Cerebral Palsy Project has been conducted. I understand that only five per cent of the project's budget goes into administration and only two and two-thirds per cent for expenses for the fund campaign. And the balance of 65 per cent goes into actual treatment and care of the beneficiaries directly; 10 per cent for supplies and equipment; training of specialists, 8 per cent; maintenance and repair, four and two-thirds per cent; and finally educational campaign, four and two-thirds per cent.

This amazing financial record in minimum overhead expenses is something that should be emulated by other civic and charitable organizations engaged in projects that depend for their financial support from the contributing public.

To the people behind the Elks Cerebral Palsy Project, therefore, I say today, I am proud of your achievements and I am truly happy you are doing this kind of work in my country and for my people.

I now call upon all residents of the Philippines, be they Filipinos or aliens, all businessmen and civic groups, all government officials on the national, provincial, and municipal levels, all employees in the public service or in private enterprises, to give what they can and extend all the cooperation necessary to make this 1961 Educational and Fund Campaign of the Elks Cerebral Palsy Project a complete success.

I hereby declare the 1961 Educational and Fund Campaign of the Elks Cerebral Palsy Project officially open and I shall now hand my own personal contribution to your chairman.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1961). Speech of President Garcia at the kick-off ceremonies of the Cerebral Palsy 1961 Fund Campaign. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57(22), 4082-4083.

**Acceptance speech of President Carlos P. Garcia accepting his nomination as President at the Nacionalista Party Convention Acceptance speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the Nacionalista Party Convention**

[Delivered at the Araneta Coliseum on June 3, 1961]

MR. SPEAKER, PRESIDENT OSMEÑA,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE CONVENTION,  
MY FRIENDS:

I THANK you all from the very depth of my soul for the stuff of leadership which you have decided by unanimous vote of this convention to entrust to me for the second time. This is an occasion of great meaning to me. Humbly but also buoyantly, I accept this nomination as a new attestation of your faith in my leadership. I like to believe that this nomination is a resounding ratification of my administration during the past four years. It is a reaffirmation of the nationalism consistently and courageously espoused by the Nacionalista Party. It is also a fresh challenge to scale new heights of national progress and development. With you supporting my leadership, I accept this challenge and with God's help, we shall fight with invincible determination and indivisible solidarity until the victorious Nacionalista banner will fly proudly over every temple and tower and summit in this beloved native land of ours.

My friends, as I closely observed the Nacionalista convention by television, and as I look at it now before me I can attest to the outstanding fact that the enthusiasm and optimism characterizing this Nacionalista gathering is something never before witnessed in our own country. It is the greatest democratic process towards the election of the National leaders that has ever taken place in all Asia. I dare say it is symbolic of the irresistible and irrepressible march of democracy over the continent of Asia. I therefore extend my warmest hand of congratulations to the Chairman, Speaker Romualdez, Executive Committee members Senator Primicias and Speaker Protempore Castañeda, Gen. Romulo, and all the other leaders and workers who gave made possible the grandest political convention ever staged in this part of the world.

I also take note of a signal feature of this convention and that is the invincible spirit of unity that pervades in this Nacionalista national rally. When we take into account that detractors, saboteurs, and hecklers have been pouring into the ears of the nation a veritable stream of vilification vitriol, and defamation and continuous flow of divisive jargon against the Nacionalista administration, it is almost a miracle to see the Nacionalistas from all nooks and corners of the Philippines forged into an indestructible unity that ensures not only the Nacionalista victory at the polls, but also the triumph of the Nacionalista administration following that victory.

Fellow Nacionalistas, this unity—this solidarity of the Nacionalistas which is the most important outstanding fact of this election year is the irrefutable proof that it is futile for any man or group of men to try to divide the fundamental Nacionalista unity. We may have our differences of opinion, as all of us think freely, but this divergency of view never, never can divide the Nacionalista Party.

My friends, our immediate objective is to achieve victory at the polls. With this as our objective, I shall lead the Nacionalista forces and we shall fight for the attainment of such objective however long and hard the road may be. Fighting under the banner of social justice and freedom, our political army will storm all the citadels of poverty, disease, and ignorance. We shall fight the opposition in Mindanao and beat them. We shall fight and crush them in the Visayas. We shall fight and vanquish them in Luzon. The banner of the NP shall march triumphant all over the Philippines from Aparri to Tawi-Tawi. The Nacionalista banner shall fly as the queen of the Philippine air for the next four years.

The NP is invincible because it is inspired by spirit of Quezon, Palma, and Osmeña. It is invincible because of its record of leading in the achievement of our national freedom. It is invincible because it is the party of the great



martyrs and heroes who have given their all to make possible the independence of the Philippines. It is invincible because its titanic program of social service and social uplift has redeemed the submerged millions in the rural areas. It is invincible because it possesses the Key, the only Key to victory—Unity.

Nacionalistas, the fight is on. I call upon all of you to join the triumphant army. As your standard bearer, I shall lead you whenever and wherever duty calls. There shall be no backward step. There shall be forward action, and an unrelenting forward march until victory is won.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1961). Acceptance speech of President Carlos P. Garcia at the Nacionalista Party Convention. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57(24), 4411-4412.

[Delivered at Araneta Coliseum, June 6, 1961]

My friends, but all these officers of the convention would not have been able to do anything without the cooperation of the delegates themselves. (Applause). The delegates have come from northernmost Batanes to southernmost Tawi-Tawi, but they have come here with determination to choose the standard bearers and so, you have come, my friends, to [perform one of the greatest and most sacred duties you have as citizens, that of helping elect persons who are to be entrusted with the national interests and national affairs of our country. (Applause).

I want to thank each and every one of the delegates to the convention. And when you go back home to your respective community, I want you to carry this message to the people: the Nacionalista Party had chosen our standard bearers and they, as standard bearers of the greatest party that has ever existed in this country, are determined to carry out the program for the wellbeing of the Filipino people. (Long applause).

Now my friends, I would like to thank also the proprietor of this coliseum, Mr. Amado Araneta, the authorities of Quezon City, and especially the city police force who must be congratulated and commended for the wonderful way in which they performed their duties in keeping peace and order on the floor (applause).

My friends, now to my task. I have been assigned the delicate task of deciding the question of who will be the running mate of your nominee for president this year. By virtue of your resolution, I am to make a decision as to who should be the running mate of the President in the forthcoming political race. But allow me first to say a few words about the men who have contended for the vice presidential nomination. All of them are worthy of the position they aspired for. I said this to the press and I want to repeat it before this convention: the men who aspired for the vice-presidency are all men of integrity, men of high preparation, men of proven capacity to work, and men who have rendered service to the nation. And so, my friends, if it were possible for us to have nine vice-presidential candidates, we would have done so (applause).

My friends, unfortunately it is not possible to have nine vice-presidential candidates, and as I closely watched the progress of the convention, I noticed that the last two leading contenders who remained to the last minute with almost balanced forces, were the young politicians whom we can call meteoric stars in politics. A star that shot out from down South side by side with the solid North in the person of Finance Secretary Dominador Aytona. It is to the credit of the Bicolanos in particular and the Filipinos in general that a young man who started from the lowest rung of public service by dint of hard labor and fine performance in all the tasks [assigned to him] has now risen to become one of the beloved men of our country.

Against him was pitted a man who is a veteran in politics, a man who has served the Philippine Senate since the year 1952, having been elected in the November elections of 1951. He was then a young man [when he ran for the senatorship of this country in the minority party, at that time, the Nacionalista Party. I happened to be the captain of the senatorial team to which Senator Puyat belonged and also former Senator Locsin.

Senator Puyat and I traveled throughout the Philippines. We went through the most difficult provinces, politically speaking, at the time when the province of Negros Occidental was under the dictatorship of former Governor Lacson. There were other dangers. There was Lanao which was ruled by political sultans who exerted much effort in the province so that we would have to face and fight against so many leases and flowers falling into the ballot boxes. There was even one of them who tried a novel way of campaigning. He went alone to the cemetery to pray there because at that time the souls of the departed also voted (Laughter).

My friends, between these two leading contenders, it is really very hard to decide, so hard, my friends, that this convention, after voting twice has not been able to decide, and now that the task had been assigned to me, I must face it. I must choose between the two who, as all of the others, have been my very good and close friends, but they have already been eliminated. Of course, I cannot forget my great friend, Don Quintin Paredes (Mabuhay), one of the outstanding political towering figures of the North and whose record as a patriot and public servant finds very few equals even throughout the entire world.

I cannot forget either the greatest living parliamentarian of today, the man who works from sunrise to sunset, the man who has been endowed by Divine Providence not only with a brilliant mind but with sturdy and good heart—I am referring to Senator Cipriano Primicias (Mabuhay).

Again, I cannot leave this platform without mentioning another senator, the scion of a great Filipino, a man whose brilliance every man recognizes, a man whose presence in the Philippine Senate has added lustre and glory to that body—I am referring to Senator Lorenzo Sumulong of Rizal (Applause).

I should mention here also one man who became a national figure during the heroic days of the guerrilla in this country, a man who had been wounded in the defense of his country's freedom, a man whose courage, according to Bulakeños themselves, can be compared to a lion's, a man who has stood with the party through thick and thin, a fearless crusader, I refer to Secretary Alejo Santos (Applause).

Another man who is very modest, a man who is so self-effacing, has also thrown his hat into the ring for the vice-presidency. This is rather a twist in his career because he is a doctor by profession and he is an aristocrat by disposition, and he has been married into the great, distinguished family of the former leader and founder of the Nacionalista Party, Don Sergio Osmeña. I am referring, my friends, to Secretary Elpidio Valencia (Applause).

Last but not least, I can not miss the name of one of the youngest members of the Senate, a young man whose career has just started and about whom we shall hear more in the days and years to come, a man of profound mentality and also with a heart that has always melted in love for his fellow men. My friends, he is a great intellectual leader, he is a fearless crusader for good and clean government. I am referring to Senator Arturo Tolentino (Applause).

Now, my friends of the convention, between these two last contenders, I find myself in the position of a beautiful maiden trying to decide between two handsome suitors. From my personal point of view, one man to me is just as good and as acceptable as the other. So, perhaps if I were a nice young lady, I might have both of them as my sweethearts (Laughter and applause). Unfortunately, however, our Constitution provides only for one vice-presidential and so I must make a choice on behalf of the convention which has asked me to do so. Since one of them was only short of about two and one-half per cent to make the required sixty per cent majority, I join my vote with this man as a vice-presidential candidate (Applause).

I want to repeat it, my friends, before we ask Senator Puyat to step forward, that the choice has been made not because I like Puyat better than Aytona. My decision has been made respecting the opinion of the majority of the delegates from different parts of our country (Applause), a majority opinion in favor of Senator Puyat which was manifested in two [successive ballotings. I hereby pronounce and proclaim that our vice-presidential candidate of the Nacionalista Party for the 1961 elections shall be Senator Gil Puyat (Applause).

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1961). Extemporaneous Speech of President Garcia in proclaiming Puyat Vice-Presidential Candidate. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57(24), 4413-4416.

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Message of President Garcia at the awarding of presidential awards at Malacañang Social Hall, on July 3, 1960**

**THE PRESIDENT'S EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS AT THE AWARDING OF PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS AT MALACAÑANG SOCIAL HALL, ON JULY 3, 1960**

THE MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT CIVIC ASSEMBLY OF AND LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I WOULD like to avail myself of this occasion to extend to each and every one of the awardees this evening my congratulations for their achievements in the fields of arts, science, industry, literature, and other activities which the government of the Republic of the Philippines did promote and which is designed as one of the provisions of the Constitution to be fostered and developed.

The year under review, my friends, has been one of the most fruitful years in the life of the Philippine Republic, and these men and women who have won the awards this evening are the best evidence of the fruitfulness of the past year. It was during this year that we had won for the first time during our four centuries of Christianity the appointment of a Filipino as cardinal. It was also during this year that we have seen the inauguration of the world's biggest dome auditorium constructed by one of our most enterprising industrialists in the person of Mr. J. Amado Araneta.

It was also during this year that we won the lightweight junior championship of the world in the person of Flash Elorde, and it was during this year under review that the Philippines attained for the first time in postwar years some ₱46 million of favorable balance of trade and, as of the last day of June, I am happy to report to the nation that our dollar reserves have gone up to \$195 million. It was also during this year that the biggest industry or manufacture of agricultural implements and machineries and spare parts out of locally-produced materials contributed to it by 124 Filipino cottage industries was established by the International Harvester Philippines. It was also during this year that this has been inaugurated under the able and dynamic leadership of Col Paul Wood. This is a significant stride in the industrialization program of making use of locally-made raw materials. And, of course, in the line of arts, we have also for the first time in the year under review won universal recognition for our Philippine folklore art which has been broadcast all over the world through the initiative and enterprise of the Bayanihan Art Center.

My friends, I have every reason to be happy today on the eve of the celebration of our Independence Day in feeling that the past year under review has been one of fruitful advances and strides in all activities of the nation and I have more faith and confidence that the next year, the 15th year in the life of this Republic, will be another year of fruitfulness, of glory, and of achievement.

And I want to make particular mention here of the award of the Civic Assembly of Women of the Philippines in favor of Don Claro M. Recto, a man who has distinguished himself not only in the Philippines but in the world over. He is already known by his friends and foes as an intellectual giant.

My friends, with this deep satisfaction for the things thus far achieved, we have every reason to look forward with higher optimism in the years to come, and again I would like to congratulate the awardees for this past year.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Garcia during the Rites Commemorating the 65th anniversary of the Battle of  
Pinaglabanan**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
During the rites commemorating the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Pinaglabanan**

[Delivered at San Juan, Rizal, August 29, 1961]

IT IS my privilege to be with you today as you commemorate a historical event of deep and tremendous significance to every freedom-loving Filipino. The first cry for liberty symbolized in crude weapons raised by Bonifacio and his men as they attacked the *polverista* in San Juan, has since found an answering echo in our people's subsequent struggles for self-determination and political independence. We recall the past today, therefore, not merely to evoke the sentimental thrill of that first, if futile, manifestation of patriotism, but also to reassess the persistence with which we have kept faith with the ideals of a small group of men. Their luminous patriotism and valor would be meaningless if we who now possess the freedom which they never enjoyed, should be found wanting in preserving the values which that very freedom entails.

The great era of the Philippine Revolution is over. Its passions, its tragedy, and its glory have merged into the present period of national struggle—no longer against alien domination—but against silent, insidious forces which would negate the very principles for which Bonifacio and our early heroes had fought with such remembered dedication. We have breached the gap between three major periods of foreign rule. Today we have taken our own modest place in the concert of free nations, and have striven to carry our own share of the burden, that must inevitably fall upon those who would maintain existence under peace, liberty, and order.

But we face odds even as formidable—and perhaps even more so—than those which challenged the Pinaglabanan heroes of old.

The flux of international events is a ceaseless one. Even as we pick ourselves up from the ashes of the last war, another more fearful destruction threatens not only our own existence but that of the entire world as well. Two conflicting ideologies—one adhering to the inalienable rights of all men to live in peace and according to the principles of right and justice, and the other denying this right and subordinating it to that of the state, have not yet found a way to reconcile their mutually exclusive political beliefs. The small nations like us are caught squarely in the middle of this burgeoning conflict.

We in the Philippines, have chosen to cast our lot with the lovers of freedom. We have time and again proven to the rest of the world that—small and weak as we are—we shall not surrender our individual dignities and liberties to the enemy in abject surrender.

We have gone a long way from Pinaglabanan. Today, as free men, we constantly seek to buttress the foundations of our freedom in the formulation of both our national as well as our foreign policies. Thus, we are members of the United Nations Organization and its agencies. We have entered into regional security pacts with our Western and Asian friends. Lately, we initiated the formation of the Association of Asia (ASA) envisaging economic and social cooperation among Asian governments with the hope that in the not-too-distant future, other Asian countries will join us in this cooperative endeavor. We have entered into a military agreement with the United States with the end in view of protecting our country in the event of another war.

On the national level, we have sought to strengthen existing individual liberties, and to preserve peace, order, and justice. Perhaps one of the most telling manifestations of our desire to stress self-determination as a people is the Government's present "Filipino First" policy which is geared towards the encouragement and protection of Filipino interests on the economic front. Designed mainly to favor the expansion of native industries and national trade the "Filipino First" policy has, understandably, encountered opposition from extraneous sectors. We have, however, tended to deal with foreign investors on an unchanging basis of equity even, as we extend the largest measure of protection to our own people.

These movements, however, which are aimed at giving meaning and substance to the freedoms we now enjoys, would be fruitless unless we make ourselves worthy of the values intrinsic to these freedoms. It would be quixotic to assume that a nation or its people would fight for principles once these were threatened, if there is no sense of identification between the two, and no feeling of pride or merit in being free.

As we commemorate today the historic significance of the Pinaglabanan stand, let us not lose sight of its wider implications. Freedom, for which Bonifacio and his men fought with such dauntless courage and heroism is both a heritage and a deep and heavy responsibility. To the degree and sincerity with which we carry our share of of the burden would depend our continued existence as a free people.

I have implicit faith in the Filipino nation. I am of the firm conviction that with its well-known courage, its industry and unflinching belief in the democratic way of life, the priceless legacy left by our heroes in the past shall not have been bequeathed in vain.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1961). Speech of President Garcia during the Rites Commemorating the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Pinaglabanan. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57(37), 6598-6599.

**Radio address of President Garcia on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the first elections held under the Philippine Constitution on September 17, 1935**

**Radio address  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
On the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the first elections held under the Philippine Constitution on  
September 17, 1935**

[Delivered on October 2, 1961]

MY COUNTRYMEN,

TWENTY-SIX years ago today, the first national elections under the Philippine Constitution were held. In that election, Manuel L. Quezon and Sergio Osmeña were voted President and Vice-President respectively of the Philippine Commonwealth, which was still on November 15 of that year, 1935.

President Quezon and Vice-President Osmeña had been outstanding leaders of our country in the fight for independence. Because of their unswerving devotion to the cause of freedom and the Filipino people, the country swept them into the two premiere positions within its gift by almost unanimous vote.

This is one significant aspect of that first election under our constitution—that men of unswerving loyalty to the cause of freedom and Filipino nationalism were picked to man the helm of our ship of state during the critical times ahead.

Another significant aspect of that first election under the constitution was that it was one of the of our people's will through the ballot.

Ours is a democratic country committed to the popular will as the supreme authority in the choice of public officials. Periodic elections are the gauge of this freedom we enjoy to pick public officials of our own choice.

There have been instances, however, after our independence, when this freedom of suffrage, this right to vote, was endangered by unscrupulous men who wanted to perpetuate themselves in power. They made a mockery of free elections. They padded election returns. They made the trees, the birds, the bees, the animals; and even the dead vote. Not content with this they terrorized our people to make them vote against their will. They did not stop at maiming and killing in their brazen attempt to perpetuate themselves in power.

Those tragic times are happily over. President Magsaysay with me as his vice-president put an end to that infamous regime. The Nacionalista Party, true to its noble tradition of faithful service to our country, restored to our people their birthright of freedom. Since the Nacionalista Party re-assumed power, free elections became again the way of life of the Filipino people.

This is another election year. I have pledged time and again that elections under my administration shall be clean, honest, and free. Let this be an occasion for me to renew my pledge that I will not tolerate any attempt at subverting the people's will. My thirty-six years of public service in which I have won all my political battles will not be stained at this stage of my life.

I ask you my countrymen to go to the polls and vote. Vote for the candidate of your choice. Vote for the man you think will lead our country ably and well. Do not allow yourselves to be blinded by passion and prejudice. Do not allow yourselves to be made the tools of demagogues. Vote and vote freely. I will safeguard your freedom. The sanctity of your ballot shall be untrammelled. Let us live together in freedom and prosperity as true and tested Filipinos. God be with us all.



*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1961). Radio address of President Garcia on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the first elections held under the Philippine Constitution on September 17, 1935. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57(40), 7132-7133.

**Extemporaneous speech of President Garcia at the Luncheon given by the Manila Lions Club**  
**Extemporaneous speech**  
**of**  
**His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia**  
**President of the Philippines**  
**At the Luncheon given by the Manila Lions Club**

[Delivered at Winter Garden, Manila Hotel, October 4, 1961]

PRESIDENT CAMPOS,  
EX-PRESIDENTS,  
MEMBERS OF THE LIONS CLUB,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I WAM indeed very happy that forty days, before the elections you are giving me an opportunity to be heard and I believe that in a democratic country like ours, where the sovereignty resides in the people and where all governmental authority emanates from them, it is only natural and logical that the people be given all the sides in the political issues, and while I have been told that it is a taboo to talk about politics in civic organizations like the Lions Club, I feel that as a living citizen of this country, you will allow me to present the issues or questions involved in the present fight.

My friends, this being perhaps my last opportunity to talk to the Lions on the political issues, I have decided to speak politics although I have tried to shun this subject in all occasions that I had the opportunity to be heard by the Lions.

My friends, the Nacionalista Party has presented its side for a reiteration of confidence by the people.

The Nacionalista administration is asking for a restoration of the confidence of the Filipino people on the basis of its record of performance. If in the best judgment of the Lions of this country, the record of performance of the Nacionalista administration does not come up to the standard required for restoration of the people's confidence, then this is a free country and you are free to exercise your right of suffrage according to your conscience.

I want to give you my assurance that although most of you are my good friends, and that in the free exercise of your right of suffrage your conscience dictates that you should vote against President Garcia, I want to assure you that you will not lose his friendship.

My friends, I have said that I am asking, as the titular head of the Nacionalista Party, for a restoration of confidence in the Nacionalista administration on the basis of performance. So I want to trace the history of the Nacionalista Party from its organization in 1907.

The Nacionalista Party was organized in 1907 by three illustrious Filipinos—Manuel Quezon, Sergio Osmeña, -Sr., and Rafael Palma. What was the reason for the Nacionalista Party to come into existence? For one very important reason, my friends; before the year 1907 there was a party here that existed—the so-called Federalist Party—which advocated that the Philippines should become one of the states of the American union. At that time even the Americans did not all accept the idea; an overwhelming majority of the Filipino people rejected it because we are ten thousand miles from the United States and we have our own history; we are a brown people, and we have our own traditions in our own country. So the overwhelming majority of the Filipino people believed it was most unwise for the Philippines to become a state of the United States. That was the reason why the Nacionalista Party was born and its only platform was to fight for an immediate, complete, and absolute independence. That was the only item in the platform of the Nacionalista Party in 1907 when it was launched in Manila and all the provinces.

My friends, election after election came, and the Nacionalista Party fought, first against the Federalist Party and defeated it in all the electoral fights. When the Federalist Party went out of existence, the Progresista Party followed,

and it was also beaten in all the elections until it went out of existence. Then there was the Consolidacion Nacional and, finally, the Democratic Party was born and the Democrata Party was vanquished in all the elections and went out of existence upon the assumption of office of President Quezon of the Philippine Commonwealth or, rather, upon the acceptance by the Filipinos of the Tydings-McDuffie Law.

So, my friends, service Number One of the Nacionalista Party to the nation is the leadership of the people in their fight for independence.

It took the Nacionalista Party forty years to achieve this dream until the United States of America, by voluntary action, conceded or granted us our independence and we inaugurated our independence on July 4, 1946. At that time there were not a few Filipinos who were afraid that we would not be able to establish here a stable government, in view of the fact that we had just emerged from the Second World War and were in the midst of ruin and desolation.

I was a senator when the Philippine Republic was inaugurated at the Luneta and I can remember very distinctly that surrounding the Luneta, where the ceremonies of the inauguration of the Philippine Republic were conducted, were ruins, debris, and the devastation of the cruel war. So there were not, I say, a few Filipinos who feared that our country might be able to establish a responsible, stable government that can comply with its international obligations under the most trying circumstances. But most of the Filipinos closed their eyes and said, "Well, by the faith of our people, by the determination of our people, we shall be able to survive the first or initial test of our ascendancy into power and come out of it successfully."

And so, my friends, the first ten years of our Independent Republic were years of reconstruction and rehabilitation. Friends, we have successfully completed the task of reconstruction and rehabilitation, so much so that those Americans and other foreigners who were here in 1945 and saw the destruction here in Manila and have come back to our country ten years after, were amazed to see none of the vestiges of the devastation. Now, my friends, I would say that the first national service of the Nacionalista Party was for leadership of the Filipino people in their struggle for independence.

Service Number Two: My friends, during the Common-, wealth Government, under the provisions of the Tydings-McDuffie Law, we were supposed to draft and approve our own constitution for the future republic, because under the Tydings-McDuffie Law, we were supposed to be granted independence on July 4, 1946. Although war intervened and there was great destruction and devastation in our country, the American people complied with their solemn pledge and promptly on July 4, 1946, granted us complete independence.

During the time of the Commonwealth Government when we were drafting our Constitution, we approved the most transcendental provision of the Constitution in the establishment here of a democratic form of government. The provision of our Constitution says: "There shall be established a democratic form of government in the Philippines. The sovereign power resides in the people and all governmental authority shall emanate from them." That was, as I said, in the opinion of constitutionalists, the transcendental provision of our Constitution: The establishment here of a democratic form of government in which the people are the source of all governmental authority. That is why presidents and all mighty men of this country have to face the people to seek the people's confidence and their vote, as all governmental authority emanate from them.

As President of this country, my friends, I am the commander-in-chief of all the armed forces. But with all those powers I possess, I have to go to the common man of the country and appeal to him for a reiteration of confidence because, as I have said, we have established a transcendental provision in our Constitution instituting here a democratic form of government in which the sovereign power resides in the people and all governmental authority emanate from the people. And that is the reason why I am facing you now, an organization which constitutes the leading portion of the community. That, I would say, is Service Number Two of the Nacionalista Party.

Service Number Three, my friends, was a reaffirmation of the principle of this democratic way of life. As you will recall, in the year 1949, there was a terrorized election. Terrorism, violence, and frauds were committed by the Party in power that existed at the time in order to coerce the will of the Filipino people.

According to the reports of the Chicago Tribune on the elections of 1949, it was as crooked as a million hooks. My friends, that was why there was an uprising in 1950, because the freedom of the people to exercise their right of suffrage and vote in accordance with the dictate of their own conscience were impaired by terrorism, violence, and by frauds. That is why, my friends, in 1953 the Nacionalista Party put up a presidential line-up consisting of Magsaysay as president and Garcia for vice-president. The issue then, my friends, was to return democracy to the people and to recover their faith and confidence in their government. In that election of 1953, the Nacionalista line-up swept triumphantly over the entire country. Magsaysay was elected by an overwhelming majority. It was literally true that Magsaysay was borne on the shoulders of the Filipino people. And when Magsaysay assumed the presidency and leadership of the nation, he immediately instituted the necessary reforms in order to nullify the grounds for which the Huk rebellion was born. He instituted land reforms, spent millions of pesos from the government coffers to buy big landed haciendas where tenants had been working for generations and generations and parcelling them out in small pieces and selling them to the landless.

My friends, we have purchased a great number of those big haciendas which were the cradle or the nursery of the Huk rebellion of 1950. The Nacionalista administration not only purchased the big haciendas which were nurseries of dissatisfaction, but it also embarked on the distribution of public lands of this country to the homeless and landless. The Land Tenure Administration distributed private lands while the NARRA distributed public lands to the landless and the homeless. Now 27,000 families, someless and hopeless, have been given 10,000 hectares of land to cultivate and most of them have made their lands productive and positive assets in the country's economy. Only a few years ago these 27,000 families were homeless and hopeless, and willing to join the Huk rebellion because there was nothing that could be worse than the position in which they were in. Now they are positive assets of the community and they have rehabilitated themselves as good, progressive citizens.

My friends, in the election of 1950, one of the most important issues was the restoration of the faith and confidence of the people. How was this accomplished? It was accomplished through the elections of 1955 when Magsaysay saw to it that everybody could vote freely, that everybody could vote in accordance with the dictates of his own conscience. That election of 1955 was honest and conducted in an orderly and free way.

In 1957, another national election took place. That was under my immediate responsibility as I was already the President. I can say with pride that we had been able to conduct a clean, free, honest and orderly election.

Again, in 1959, under my direct responsibility, we were able to conduct free, clean, honest, and orderly elections. So my friends, the foundations of democracy have gone deeper and deeper. The people's confidence in their government have returned, and now it is my pride to say that it is the verdict of the entire free world that the Philippine Republic is the most successful democracy in the entire continent of Asia. (Applause) That is something that makes the Filipino grow two or three inches tall in the sense that here, in the brief span of 15 years, we have established on firmer foundations democracy on this island. You know how some countries around us select and change administrations. One administration follows another by means of *coup d'etat*, by the use of force, and the same administration is in turn swept out by a stronger force and so forth and so on. In other words, it is force rather than the mandate of the people that changes administrations. It is only here in this country, since 1946, and with possible exception of 1949, that we have selected here and have chosen different administrations succeeding one after the other through the mandate of the people. That is something you can be proud of, and that is Service Number Three of the Nacionalista Party.

And, my friends, we come now to service Number Four of the Nacionalista Party: As you recall, the economic set-up in this country was not changed materially after we achieved our political independence. That is only natural because the economic policies of the country were defined and prosecuted by foreign masters for four centuries or four hundred long years. From 1565 when Legaspi started colonization work in this country, to August 13, 1898, when Dewey smashed the Spanish sovereignty over the Philippines, the economic policy of our country was defined and prosecuted by our former masters.

From 1898 or, if you want to base it from the Treaty of Paris, from December of that year, up to July 4, 1946, the United States took control over us, and it was natural that the economic policy of the Philippines was defined by the Americans, and of course the economy had to be shaped in accordance with the American concept. When we

received our independence on July 4, 1946, the best portion of the natural resources of the country were in the hands of foreigners.

The control of the domestic trade in this country was in the hands of the foreigners, and the control of the foreign trade in this country was in hands of the foreigners.

My friends, under an independent Republic, we cannot tolerate such a situation. We had to do something about it and we have a legitimate right to do it, for the same reason that the Americans would like to be masters of their national economic household in the United States, and the Japanese in Japan, and the British in England. For this same reason, the Filipino people have a right to assume predominance and control and mastery in the national economy of their country. It is for this reason that I have launched as the Fourth Service of the Nacionalista Party, the so-called Filipino First policy, which is the legitimate exercise of the Filipino people to assume mastery in the economic household of the Philippines.

This has been misunderstood by foreigners, even by our good friends, I believe, that I have sufficient clarification especially to the Americans, that under the so-called parity amendment, they have parity rights in the exploitation of the natural resources of the country and in the establishments of public utilities; that in the matter of trade under the former Bell Trade Act, and now under the modified Laurel-Langley Agreement, Americans also have parity rights with Filipinos. Insofar as other aliens of the country are concerned, they should recognize the fact that an independent Philippines will have to have control of her economy. Therefore, it is only natural that the control of the economy would be given to the hands of the Filipinos.

There is nothing anti-alien. We are still the best of friends with any European or any other nationality in this country. That is the service Number Four of the Nacionalista Party.

Service Number Five, is, my friends, that the present Administration has committed itself to the economic development of our country, especially to the exploitation of the natural resources of this country of which we have been blessed by Divine Providence rather generously. The Nacionalistas approved in the last congressional session two important development authorities—the Mindanao Development Authority and the Cagayan Valley Development Authority Laws. This is not exclusive of the other plans of development in other regions. These two regions have been singled out as special projects of development in view of the special circumstances obtaining in those two regions. Let me point out to you why: Mindanao is the second biggest island in the Philippine group, second only to Luzon. It has tremendous natural resources that are still untouched and undeveloped which should be utilized in order to increase the prosperity of the country and increase the per capita income of the Filipinos.

We have, for example, the laterite deposits in Surigao estimated by our own Bureau of Mines conservatively to be worth ₱270 billion that has not been touched up to now. We have the water resources in Maria Cristina, where there are 750,000 kilowatt but of which only 100,000 are being utilized, leaving 650,000 kilowatt flowing into Iligan Bay without being utilized. If we utilized 650,000 kilowatt of industrial force, we shall have power enough to industrialize the entire island of Mindanao. We have the tremendous agricultural areas that are not yet reached *icy* man because roads have not reached there. They are the most fertile valleys and soil in the whole world; and they are only waiting to be tilled by the hand of man in order to produce more prosperity and' more wealth for our people. We have vast forest resources in Mindanao and many of these are exploited wastefully in the sense that we have not provided conservation measures. My friends, let us not forget that the forest resources, unlike mineral resources, can be perpetuated because we can replenish the cut forests. We can reforest where there was deforestation whereas we cannot replenish mineral resources.

I have travelled all over the Middle Eastern countries. In the biblical days, you read in the Bible about the Cedars of Lebanon, about the forests primeval in those areas that are now called the Middle Eastern countries. But what do we see in the Middle Eastern countries now? We see deserts where there were forest. We see sand dunes which require plenty of fertilization in order to produce something. That was the product of the improvidence of those people who did not provide for the conservation of the natural resources which they did not replenish. You are witness to the tremendous floods along the Yangtze valley which destroyed billions of dollars worth of property every year owing to the improvidential exploitation of the forest resources of that country.

My friends, let us profit from the lessons of history, from the experience of ancient people. We are not living for this generation alone; we are living for all future generations of the Filipino people.

I have enumerated the five outstanding services of the Nacionalista Party to the nation. I believe that during the last four years the Nacionalista Party has managed the financial affairs of the nation well. We have made our finances stable. We have developed industries here to provide employment for thousands of laborers, thus reducing the unemployed from 1,700,000 to 800,000. We made possible the establishment of industries here manned, launched, and managed by Filipinos, sprouting up not only in the industrial areas around Manila but in other provinces of the country.

My friends, these are evidences of the economic progress we have achieved during the last four years. I am asking for restoration of confidence by the people as an act of justice toward the Nacionalista administration that has given you the service you deserve.

I would like to conclude by thanking you, especially the officers of the Lions, for this opportunity that you have given me to speak before you this afternoon, and I would like to believe as I have always believed, that the Lions members will exercise their right of suffrage conscientiously and judiciously in the next election, and it is my hope that the Nacionalista Party will again be of service to the Filipino people.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1961). Extemporaneous speech of President Garcia at the Luncheon given by the Manila Lions Club. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57(42), 7518-7525.

**Speech of President Garcia before the Association of Philippine Broadcasters**

**Speech  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
Before the Association of Philippine Broadcasters**

[Delivered at the Club Filipino, October 24, 1961]

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MY FRIENDS:

LIKE many other things in this modern world of ours, radio started out as an item of luxury but has become in the course of time, an item of extreme necessity. Its sister-medium, television, is in our country still a matter of luxury as it is in most of the countries of the world, except those that are so technically advanced and prosperous. But television's phenomenal growth in the Philippines the last few years speak well of the sagacity of the industry as well as of our people's reception for it. Indeed, there is no need for prophetic vision to predict that in the foreseeable future, television in this country will be in the status that radio is in now—that of a necessity comparable to a free press.

I hope that this comparison with the press will not annoy those among you who fought still harbor some of the ill-feeling generated by the long war between press and radio over the effectiveness of each as a mass media of communication. That war has long since been settled and it was lost by neither side. Press and radio have found that they complement and supplement each other both in the area of news dissemination and in purveying entertainment. The entrance of television into the field of mass communication has also done damage to neither side. If there is anybody who is worried today over the fast growth of television, it is not press, nor radio, but possibly only the Hollywood film industry.

Here in our own country the complementary characteristic of press and radio has developed into a healthy trend noticeable the last few years. This trend has to do with the putting up by the big newspaper chains of their own radio-TV networks for faster dissemination of on-the-spot news. Of course, the rabid partisans for radio may claim that this is a clear victory for radio, since we have yet to hear of a big radio network putting up its own newspaper chain.

But that is neither here nor there. The fact is all the media of mass communication in this country had grown at a fast and steady clip especially during the last decade. Readership for the newspapers has increased and so has listenership for radio and viewership for television.

The role that the media of mass communication play in the country has become, over the past years increasingly more vital as we strove to meet the challenge of post-war development. That role has been doubly important because, hand in hand with our struggle for material progress, we have had to wage relentless battle against forces of an ideology that threatened the freedoms and liberties that constitute our democratic tradition. There is no doubt today that the mass communication media have been of incalculable importance in securing harmony among our people, a greater awareness of the problems that confront us, and an understanding of the alternatives that are open for their solution.

Especially true is this during this election year when media men are called upon to disseminate among our people the conflicting views on national problems that are being foisted upon them by rival politicians vying for public office.

To air impartially conflicting views, instead of lopsidedly presenting only one side; to criticize with a view to reform, instead of senselessly attacking just to destroy; to calm the passions of political partisans by dispassionate discussions, instead of fanning them into flames of hatred by heated emotionalism—these are to them the greatest

gauge and the truest test of media men's service to the nation. I am happy to state here that our mass media people have passed this test with flying colors.

At this point, I want briefly to summarize the reasons why I am seeking a second term.

I stand foursquare on the achievement of the Nacionalista administration. They are solid, concrete, and incontrovertible.

The next logical step in our struggle as a people is the attainment of economic emancipation. Filipino First, which is the slogan of this economic policy, aims at placing in the hands of Filipino citizens the control of economic power in this country. This is the only way we can make every single Filipino benefit and share the bounty of the land. Filipino dominance in industry and business will be the direct result of Filipino First. A fully balanced agro-industrial economy will be the end result bringing about a self-sustaining and self-sufficient society.

The country's fight against communism has been effective and will continue to be pursued relentlessly and with vigor. I signed into law the bill outlawing the Communist Party in our country. Under the Nacionalista administration the subversive force of the communists in this country has been reduced to a minimum with the capture of most of their outstanding leaders. The few remaining at large are being hunted without quarter. These facts should take care once and for all of the silly oppositionist charge that I am coddling communists in our midsts. In the fight against graft and corruption, I challenge anyone to show me any other administration that has done even only half as much as this one.

Grafters, there are in the government, as which government in whatever clime and during whatever time has none. But more than any other, my administration has gone hammer and tongs at crooks and has fired and jailed a substantial number of them. No other administration has done as much.

The next solid achievement of the Nacionalista administration is dignity in foreign relation. No longer are we called puppets and no longer are we treated as such. Keeping faith with the strong traditional ties that bind us to our allies and yet developing closer relations with our Asian brothers and neighbors, we have achieved a position of prestige and respectability which no other administration in the past has attained.

The management of government and internal affairs under my administration has shown a steady improvement of fiscal matters. Our national budget has been balanced and the last three fiscal years have shown consistent surpluses, to wit: ₱53 million in 1958; ₱70 million in 1959; and ₱59 million in 1960.

But it is in the field of public welfare and rural improvement that my administration has outdistanced by leaps and bounds every other administration in the past. Today, the Filipino people enjoy health facilities comparable to the best in the world. This, notwithstanding the recent cholera scare that threatened us from our neighboring countries. My administration has encouraged local autonomy right at the barrio level. Local government have been granted a greater share in revenue collections. Per capita income has increased 21 per cent that of 1953, the last year of the Liberal Party. Rural health units, puericulture centers, an expanded barrio school system, irrigation and artesian wells units, land for the landless programmes, and numerous other community development projects, had improved the lot of our people in the rural areas where the majority of our population live. Today the countryside vibrates with the pulse of progress.

Lastly, the Nacionalista administration has restored to our people faith in free elections as the final arbiter in the choice of government officials: Civil liberties, many of you must still recall, were at a premium during the dark days of the Liberal Party regime when to be an oppositionist was to court bodily harm and might even cost one's life. Today there are cases of election violence to be sure; for we Filipinos tend to take politics too seriously. But these cases are of local nature and are being adequately handled by our national police agencies; unlike during those infamous days of the Liberal Party when organized terrorism was the weapon of a ruthless administration to bludgeon the opposition into submission.



This respect for liberty and love of freedom has distinguished the long and historic service to the nation of the Nacionalista Party, the party that won for us political independence, the party that will win for us this time economic emancipation.

It is this liberty and this freedom to which you as members of the Association of Philippine Broadcasters are committed. God grant you the power to preserve this liberty and this freedom which has cost us so much to achieve and to safeguard.

Your association will be called upon again to help your country during the coming elections. The quick and accurate reporting of the conduct of the elections all over the Philippines must be your chief concern. The element of speedy reporting during elections time is priceless. In past elections, you have helped report the news and the election returns to a waiting populace. By so doing you have performed great service to our people and minimized the commission of fraud. I trust that all the 130 radio and five television stations in the country will help disseminate the poll returns to Manila as speedily and as accurately as possible. Then the whole world will know that Philippine elections under the Nacionalista Party are the freest ever held here. Then we shall have preserved our people's faith in free elections as the expression of their mandate. Then we shall have lived up to the verdict of the world that the Philippine Republic is the most successful democracy in Asia.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1961). Speech of President Garcia before the Association of Philippine Broadcasters. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57(45), 8121-8124.

**Speech of President Garcia at Loyalty Day Parade in Camp Murphy on October 30, 1961**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S SPEECH AT LOYALTY DAY PARADE IN CAMP  
MURPHY ON OCTOBER 30, 1961**

EXCELLENCIES,  
SECRETARY  
DISTINGUISHED  
MEN OF THE ARMED FORCES:

LADIES  
SANTOS,  
GUESTS,

&  
GENERAL  
OFFICERS

GENTLEMEN,  
CABAL,  
AND

ON THIS bright sunny morning, against the background of this magnificent phalanx of our armed forces, it is reassuring to feel and to know that we live in a democratic country that is stable and free. This is the greatest gift God has bestowed on us. Let us as a people not cease thanking Him for this great blessing.

On behalf of the Filipino people, I acknowledge with humility and gratitude your renewal of loyalty, which is really your singular way of rededicating yourselves to the principles of patriotism and devotion to duty which you have shown in times of peace and in times of war.

I invite you and our people to pause for a while and focus our attention to a very serious aspect of our national existence—the problem of our national security. Too often, in the heat of partisan politics, the bigger problems of the nation are set aside or even forgotten.

Happily for our country, however, we have succeeded in maintaining peace and order throughout the land, thereby creating conditions favorable to the healthy development of our political institutions and the steady growth of our national economy. Nevertheless, the threat to the national security which stems from the local Communist party continues to be a real and present danger. We know that the communists in our country sought to seize national power through the use of armed force. They attempted this a few years back and failed. They pursue this objective now by using the rights and privileges of citizens enjoyed in a free country such as ours. We also know that the communists in our country today are exploiting for their own purposes the legitimate and valid aspirations of our government and people. It should not be difficult for us to realize that the battles we have to wage must be fought with much greater wisdom. These battles must be fought with equanimity. We must guard against losing our sense of balance because if we don't, we may unwittingly help the communists destroy the Very freedom we seek to preserve. Moreover, should we lose our sense of balance, there is the much greater danger of losing our sense of direction.

A good hard look at the state of the national security must be viewed in the light of the international situation which of late has been marked by the continuing tension in Berlin, crisps situations in several parts of Asia and Africa, and the growing communist pressures all over the world. Our people must Remain united. We should join the rest world in defending the democratic way of life of the free world in defending the way of life.

Nurtured by the noble tradition of our forefathers and steeped in democratic principles, there is no choice left for us except to remain firm in our policy to fight communism or any other form of human bondage, the threat of a 50-megaton bomb notwithstanding.

Some nations may have the power and the resources to be neither red nor dead; others may prefer to be red than dead; but for our people, if we are to remain true to our God, true to the noble traditions of our forefathers, and to the democratic principles for which we paid so dearly with our blood, should it ever be forced on us, God forbid, we have no other choice: We Would Rather Be Dead Than Red.

Officers and men of the Armed Forces, you have the responsibility of contributing positively to the task of nation building, and I know you are deeply aware of such responsibility. It is with singular pride that I note your unstinted support and participation in the efforts of your government to cope with vital economic and social problems. Your agro-industrial projects, such as building prefabricated school houses for the education of our youth in the democratic way of life, your building of roads to connect far-flung communities to the roads of civilization, your

exemplary role during the recent calamities—these are but a few manifestations of your versatility in helping meet the pressing needs of our nation. I urge you, therefore, to continue and unite in your efforts, ever alert for new ideas and approaches that will make more effective your role in national growth and security.

I enjoin you all, officers and men of the Armed Forces, to be ever vigilant, to be ever loyal to the principles of democracy that you, even as I, are sworn to uphold. Remember at all times that your loyalty is to God and to our country, to our democratic institutions and certainly not to individuals. In this coming elections, you will be doing the country a great service by maintaining strict impartiality. Give favor to no one. As a candidate for president, I should like to make it clear that I would rather go down in defeat than win by means of terrorism or by means of frauds. Exert all your effort to insure a clean, honest and free expression of the people's will. As your Commander-in-Chief, it is my desire that you do no less.

God grant that this, land of ours preserve its birthright of freedom; and that you, the vanguards of our bastion of liberty, continue to have the strength, the discipline, the dedication, the self-sacrifice, which alone can guarantee the perpetuation of our well-being. God bless you all!

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Message of President Garcia to the Filipino People on the Eve of Election**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA’S MESSAGE TO THE FILIPINO PEOPLE ON THE EVE OF ELECTION**

MY COUNTRYMEN:

THE great moment which millions of Filipinos have looked forward to with anticipation and high hope is at hand. You enter the polls, you will be exercising an inviolate and God-given right to select the Men to run the affairs of your government.

Both political parties had summed up their respective programs of government.

The Nacionalista Party stands for progress. We are for moving ahead, propelled into new horizons by the forces of Filipino First. We are for giving our people more schools. We are for building more roads and opening up new lands. We are for developing the tremendous natural resources in Mindanao and Cagayan valley. We are for constructing more hospitals and factories. We are for more artesian wells and more employment. We are for pursuing with vigor and determination the campaign to eliminate graft and corruption in the public service, as we have done relentlessly since 1958, resulting in the conviction and punishment of 11,000 erring officials and employees. We are for attaining for all our people the basic needs of life, self-sufficiency in food, clothing, and shelter.

The Nacionalista Party stands foursquare against Communism and all the evils it brings. We staunchly held against the admission of Red China into the United Nations at a time when some countries were favorably considering it and even to the extent of appealing to the United States not to allow such an event to happen. We have aligned ourselves on the side of the Free World. We are for pursuing a foreign policy that is based on national dignity and mutual respect.

My countrymen: the Filipino nation has faced seemingly insurmountable difficulties. We hurdled these difficulties because we were united as a people. Under the leadership of the Nacionalista Party, we have brought out the best in the Filipino heart and mind to help build for ourselves and our children a better Philippines.

You elected me into the Presidency in 1957, and I thank the millions of Filipinos who placed their trust in me. I honored that trust and lived up to it to the best of my ability. It is with particular pride that the cleanest and most orderly elections were held under the aegis of the Nacionalista Party. This is one of our people’s sources of strength and pride.

Once again, the Nacionalista Party asks for a fresh mandate to continue further with its program of good government.

God bless us all.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

## **MESSAGES TO CONGRESS**

## Message of President Carlos P. Garcia on His First State of the Nation Address

### Message of His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia President of the Philippines To the Congress On the State of the Nation

[Delivered on January 27, 1958]

MR. PRESIDENT, MR. SPEAKER, MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS:

In the exercise of their sovereign prerogatives, our people have entrusted to us the responsibility of administering the affairs of the nation. As Congress opens today the legislative phase of our joint trusteeship, I have come to counsel with you in accordance with the Constitution's mandate. I am confident that, guided by the Infinite Wisdom, we shall prove equal to the people's expectations, and live up to our solemn commitments to them.

Fortunately, we have succeeded to an administration that was also our own because most of us were part of it and because, under the concept of party responsibility, its policies were formulated and implemented by us. Consequently, we have to continue these policies; with some addition, we must continue building up the nation, spurred by the dynamics of progressive national growth.

The Administration before us suffered a rude interruption with the tragic death of my illustrious predecessor, Ramon Magsaysay. His loss is irreparable. The Philippines and the rest of the free world sorely miss him. We, however, find consolation in the fact that his spirit abides with us to inspire us to new heights of achievement.

You are all aware that I assumed the presidency in the wake of a shocking national tragedy and at a time of intense political activity, leading to the November elections. Accepting the will of the Divine Providence and the mandate of the Constitution, I occupied the office of President for nine and one-half months to complete the term of the late Chief Executive and carry on his work to the best of my ability and capacity.

I shall therefore, endeavour to report to Congress the state of the nation as I found it at the end of the Magsaysay term, covering achievements of four years since 1954. Having done this, I shall indicate the pressing problems facing the Republic and recommend to you what I believe to be their solutions.

During the last four years of Nacionalista Administration, the climate of distrust approaching despair that had pervaded the nation was replaced by a receiving faith in the Government and a growing confidence in the future of the Republic. The masses of our people came to enjoy the fruits of a determined effort to improve their lot. Our people were reaping the benefits of schools and sanitation, expanded irrigation systems, increased credit facilities, and improved transportation. Our businessmen and industrialists were reacting with understanding to the coordinated efforts to promote the general economic development. The entire nation faced the future with increasing hope and confidence.

In completing the term of my predecessor, I had the advantage of the tremendous momentum he had generated in the promotion of the common welfare. During 1954-1957, unprecedented advances were made in almost all sectors of national progress. I myself did not hesitate to take new measures and introduce new policies whenever they were advisable and necessary. Such measures and policies were intended to check untoward developments mainly caused by the forces of nature or by international events beyond our control and also by our own transgressions against the eternal verities and the laws of measure and proportion.

## RELATIONS WITH OTHER NATIONS

National security is anchored on our own internal strength as well as on our cooperation with the United Nations, buttressed by regional arrangements like the SEATO and by our special alliance of mutual defense with the United States.

**Relations with the United States**  
— While we have promoted our diplomatic and trade relations with countries in Europe and Asia, we have continued to strengthen our special relations with the United States. Although there have been disagreements on some of the provisions governing military bases, Philippine-American relations have remained as close and harmonious as ever.

**Diplomatic Services**  
— We have expanded our consular and diplomatic facilities and services abroad. We have sent an ambassador to the Vatican and have set up a legation in Cairo, Egypt. We have raised our legations in Karachi, Pakistan; New Delhi, India; Seoul, Korea; and Saigon, South Vietnam, to the status of the embassies. We have also opened honorary consulates in 13 key trade centers of the world. Our participations in the United Nations, the SEATO, and other world and regional conferences have raised our international stature and prestige.

We have concluded trade protocols with Germany, Switzerland, Nationalist China, and Japan, and have added trade and press attaches to a number of our embassy, legation, and consular staffs. The trade protocol with Germany includes provisions for the training of Filipino scholars and technicians in German industrial and educational institutions. A major study is being undertaken on the proposals to expand our foreign trade not only to establish new financial contacts but also to set up working balances abroad in other stable and freely convertible currencies. In due time the result of this study will be submitted for your consideration.

## INTERNAL SECURITY

The Armed Forces of the Philippines under the late President Magsaysay broke the back of the communist movement and paved the way for the outlawing of communism in our country. The almost total liquidation of the Huk rebellion forced a change of tactics and adequate measures were taken to meet the new situation. The CAFA recommendation for the outlawing of the Communist Party and amendments to make the law on treason applicable in peace time were indorsed by the late Chief Executive, subsequently passed by Congress, and finally signed into law by me.

National security has two supports—diplomacy on one hand and the Armed Forces on the other. The two are interrelated phases of national policy. Our Armed

Forces has a two-fold mission — the safeguarding of national security and the maintenance of peace and order, including assistance to the Administration's socio-economic and rural development efforts.

In the first mission, our Armed Forces participated in several manoeuvres, conferences, and seminars under the auspices of SEATO. With American assistance, in accordance with our mutual defense alliance, and within the limits of our resources, we are beginning to streamline our military equipment and organization in conformity with the expected new requirements of warfare in this atomic-missile age.

In the second mission, aside from taking all necessary measures for the protection of life and property, our Armed Forces has conducted psychological campaigns against dissident elements, helped in the large-scale resettlement of former outlaws, and assisted in the manufacture and installation of prefabricated schoolhouses where needed.

## THE WELL-BEING OF THE MASSES

**Rural Development Program**  
— As a dynamic answer to Communism and a positive boost to economic progress, the Administration launched a greatly expanded and bold program of social and economic development aimed at rural amelioration and at advancing industrial and agricultural productivity. The Rural Development program included land reforms, land resettlement, the establishment of the Court of Agrarian Relations and the Land Tenure Administration, the organization of cooperatives, the extension of credit, the setting up of expanded rural health units, the construction of roads, irrigation systems and artesian wells, the extension of educational facilities, and the encouragement of enlightened labor unionism.

**Land Reforms**  
— In the implementation of our established policy of giving land to the landless, the Government issued during the last four years more than 162,219 patents as compared to only 25,440 during the administration that ended December 30, 1953. The survey and subdivision of new land for distribution is also being hastened, and I propose the adoption of photogrammetry to further expedite survey requisite to the issuance of land titles. The policy launched in 1954 by President Magsaysay of distributing six-hectare farms to those willing to pioneer has resulted in the settlement of 21,587 families in 18 settlement projects, mainly in Mindanao. The Land Tenure Administration's target is to purchase and distribute 105,000 hectares of land to 17,500 families yearly.

**Credit Facilities**  
— Government institutions like the RFC, the PNB, and the ACCFA expanded the area of their operations to rural areas, thus channelling the savings of the economy to rural production. Complementarily, private banks increased not only their respective volumes of business but also their numbers and branches. Following a liberal policy from 1954 to late 1957, the banking system expanded credit to both the public and the private sectors by P1,209 million.

**Rural Banks**  
— To further accelerate development at the grassroots level, the rural banking movement was intensified during the past four years. We now have 102 banking institutions well distributed over the country. We are considering the demand to enlarge the lending capacity of rural



banks through the assistance of government banks or financial institutions.

### Cooperatives

— For the benefit of our rural masses, we have since 1954 organized 271,000 farmers into 467 cooperative marketing associations. In 1957 alone 51 FACOMAS with a combined capital of P2.6 million were formed, bringing up the total of FACOMA membership to more than 26,000 farmers. This growth has enabled the ACCFA to extend loans amounting to P142 million to 55,000 farmers for increased production enabled 65,000 farmers to acquire work animals and 15,000 others to purchase farm equipment. During 1957, the ACCFA also financed the purchase of P30 million worth of fertilizer and invested P1.5 million in the development of the ramie program.

To achieve a more efficient distribution of goods, especially the products of our farms, as well as to facilitate travel among our people, we have expanded our net work of roads.

We have also improved the Manila Railroad by converting it into diesel resulting in reduced operational cost.

### Roads, irrigation, and Artesian Wells

— During the last four years, around 3,940 kilometers of roads and 295 permanent bridges were constructed. Twenty-four national irrigation systems servicing 115,251 hectares and 27 communal irrigation projects servicing 57,410 hectares were constructed. Also installed and drilled were 31 irrigation units consisting of pumps and servicing 196,805 hectares and 8,408 artesian wells in addition to 121 waterworks systems. Under construction are 98 irrigation projects to water 198,893 hectares. All these projects, completed and under construction, will bring the total irrigated area to 568,359 hectares. This figure represents about six times that irrigated by the systems constructed from 1907 to 1953.

### Public Health

— Rural health was considerably fostered through the organization of health units, each manned by a physician, a nurse, a midwife, and a sanitary inspector. As of today, there are 1281 health units servicing 1300 municipalities in the country. The death rate is definitely declining. Infant mortality alone decreased from 98 to 84 per thousand. It should be stated that the organization of rural health units has the active assistance of the International Cooperation Administration of the United States (ICA), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the UNICEF.

In the long-range program of health improvement, the total eradication of malaria continues to be the objective. In cooperation with health and hospital agencies, our blood plasma dehydration laboratories have started an interisland blood collecting program. Under Republic Act No. 1136, BCG immunization has resulted in the tuberculin testing of 8 million children and the vaccination of 3 ½ million. Our pilot influenza virus preparatory to its approval by the World Health Organization of the Western Pacific regional center.

### Social Welfare Assistance

— Through the Social Welfare Administration the Government during the past four years has aided 1 ½ million persons. In 1957 alone 599,568 persons were extended relief by this government agency. It also resettled 1125 families from the slum areas of Manila. With the expansion of its regional offices, the Social Welfare Administration was able, in the same year, to extend aid to 6400 families belonging to non-Christian

or cultural minority groups. The program of vocational rehabilitation for the blind and other physically handicapped person has also been greatly expanded. A total of 1240 disabled has been given a thorough readjustment training to convert them into active and useful citizens. Forty-seven per cent of these people have already been absorbed in industries.

## Public

## Education

— No less significant are the strides made in public education. As a measure of insuring effective instruction, the full-day primary school session, which we had before the implementation of Commonwealth Act 586, has been restored and the maximum size of classes has been reduced from 60 to 40 pupils. The vernacular is now being used as a medium of instruction in the first two years of the primary grades, thereby promoting optimum literacy, especially among those pupils who can stay in school for only a few years.

The secondary curriculum has been revised so as to provide a common program of studies for the first two years, after which the student is given the option, with the help of a competent counsellor, to choose between a vocational course and a college preparatory course. In the revised curriculum more science and mathematics are offered, in view of their importance in present-day life and world progress.

The community school, which has been developed after years of careful experimentation, has become the pattern for our country, particularly in the rural areas. Because of the improvement that this type of school has effected in the living conditions of the people in the community, it has elicited favorable comments from foreign educators who have observed how it works.

In line with the economic development program of the Administration, vocational education has been receiving increased emphasis. Home industries are being fostered as a means of enabling our people to have a supplementary source of income. All school divisions have organized home industry centers which survey local raw materials to be developed, train workers, standardize products, and assist producers in marketing them.

## Justice

## and

## Public

## Service

— The Administration of Justice has been speeded up since 1954, resulting in a greater popular confidence in our courts. Our justice of the peace courts disposed of 80,000 out of 90,000 cases filed, while our courts of first instance settled 40,000 out of 42,000 cases. The Court of Industrial Relations decided 612 out of 758 cases filed before it, bringing its total of settled cases since 1954 to 8,576. The Agricultural Tenancy Commission also amicably arbitrated 2,800 cases out of 3,200 submitted. The Court of Agrarian Relations disposed of 3,000 out of 5,400 cases; the Court of Tax Appeals decided 93 out of 114 cases handled; while the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, during only six months of operation, disposed of 3,200 out of 7,000 cases.

The announced objective of establishing the highest possible morality in the Government is slowly being realized, with the Presidential Complaints and Action Committee, the Department of Justice, and other agencies working hand in hand to minimize graft and corruption in public service. To attain a higher level of morality and efficiency in public service, a thorough study was undertaken by the Government Survey and Reorganization Commission and its recommendations which were enacted by Congress are well in the process of implementation.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The last Nacionalista Administration was committed to a program of economic development designed to accelerate the transition of our trade-oriented economy to an agro-industrial type. Emphasis was given to the building of the industrial strength which would produce an increasingly large proportion of our essential consumer needs. To coordinate government planning, the National Economic Council was revitalized and a long-range and integrated economic plan backed by a fiscal program was formulated. Last year, Congress was requested to create a National Development Authority to carry out economic policies, plans, and programs approved by the NEC and the President. Unfortunately the powers provided by the bill creating such a body were not sufficiently broad and flexible for the vast mission it is intended to accomplish that I constrained to veto it.

### Development

### Expenditures

— Towards the achievement of our economic goal, power development was stepped up; ramie, pig-iron smelting and steel plants were started; and overhead projects such as highways, communications, and other facilities which support direct productive processes and trigger private enterprises were expanded. The emphasis on economic development was evident in the rise of the total government expenditure for this purpose, from P151 million in the fiscal year 1953 to P456 million in the fiscal year 1956, and to P506 million in the fiscal year 1957. Fiscal policy was deliberately employed as an instrument of economic development by allocating the highest possible proportion of our available financial resources to this purpose. I wish to call your attention to the fact that while the administration before 1954 used borrowed money for both budgetary and economic development purposes, our administration borrowed only for economic development.

### Power

### Development

— 1953-1957 the development of hydroelectric power gained momentum. The Binga hydroelectric plant which will be in full operation in 1960, the Ambuklao hydroelectric project, and Unit No. 2 of the Maria Cristina hydroelectric project, being built at a total cost of P225 million will supply a total of 225,000 kilowatts of electric power. Likewise finished are the hydroelectric projects in Digos and Talomo, Davao; in Loboc, Bohol; in Penaranda, Nueva Ecija; in Amburayan, La Union; in Balombon, Catanduanes; in Lake Buhi-Barit, Camarines Sur; and in Camp Philips, Agusan, Bukidnon, supplying a total of 30,300 kilowatts.

### Other

### Government

### Industrial

### Projects

— Complementary to the increase in hydroelectric power capacity, various industrial projects were undertaken or authorized. These included the rehabilitation and modernization of the Naga Cement Plant and the completion and operation of the Iligan Steel Mills producing merchant steel bars. Already authorized is the construction of another unit of the Maria Cristina Fertilizer Plant costing P15 million and estimated to double its present fertilizer production. Establishment of a pig-iron smelting plant in Iligan, Lanao; in Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte, and in Angat, Bulacan, costing P50 million to be financed from loans is under way in order to furnish the country with an integrated steel industry and to enable us to process our own iron ores instead of exporting them as such ores.

### Sale

### of

### Government

### Enterprises

— In fulfilment of the governmental policy of giving way to private capital whenever feasible and practicable, the

Bacnotan Cement Plant of the CEPOC in La Union was sold to a private group at very reasonable terms. In the same manner, the Government's shares in the Campania de Cellulosa de Filipinas were sold. Under this policy, the Government has offered for sale its participation in the Philippine Electrical Manufacturing Company and in the Manila Gas Corporation. It has also announced the outright sale of the Romblon Marble Project and the Pulp and Paper Mill. Proceeds from such sales would enable the government to pioneer and invest in areas where private capital hesitates to venture. Thus, the government is in business only to pioneer and pave the way for private enterprise ultimately to take over.

## Industrial Center

## Development

— Channelling of American aid to the private industrial sector is being encouraged through the Industrial Development Center which, outside of offering training courses and equipment demonstrations, has given dollar allocations totalling P33.7 million to 185 firms, long-term loans of P26 million to 46 firms, and guarantee-assistance on loans amounting to P9.5 million to 56 others, including Pi million for livestock development.

Reparations — Pending the organization of the Reparations Commission now in process, the bulk of the first two years of Japanese reparations goods and services has been earmarked for Government offices and corporations, but starting with the second year schedule, a procurement program for the private sector has been put into effect which will furnish canning plants, fishing boats, ocean-going vessels, pulp and paper plants, machineries for cottage industries, and similar equipment for much needed industries. As of November, 1957, contracts for a total of P88.8 million worth of reparations items have been concluded.

## PRODUCTION

### National

### Income

— The strong showing of the economy's productive sector from 1954 to 1957, underlined the general efficacy of the policies and measures implemented by our Administration. Our national income increased at a steady rate from P7 billion in 1953 to P8.3 billion at the end of 1956, a gain of 18.6 per cent. All important sectors of the economy have advanced in this respect: agricultural income rose from P3 billion to P3.3 billion; mining, from only P107 million to P141 million; and manufacturing, from P834 million to P1.2 billion, registering a spectacular surge.

There has been no let-up in the steady development of our agriculture. The country's cultivated area increased from 6 million hectares in 1953 to 7 million in 1957. Of this area, 5.5 million hectares are devoted to food crops and 1.6 million hectares to commercial crops. It is estimated that agriculture contributed about P3.5 billion or 40 per cent of the national income.

The greater flow today of income from construction, trade, transportation, and communications activity is added testimony that we have travelled a long and vigorous way from the ruins of war. It is not surprising then that a recent United Nations report has described the Philippines as having the highest record of production in this part of the world during the past ten years.

Per Capita Income — Population has increased by approximately 6 per cent since 1953, from 21.2 million to our 22.5 million. Yet in spite of the fact that we have 1.3 million more people today than in 1953, the average annual per capita income has gone up from P322 to P361, showing a 12 per cent improvement.

Volume of Physical Production — During the past four years we have seen the total domestic goods and services increased by 17.4 per cent. This development has been due to the phenomenal expansion of 47 per cent in manufacturing, 25 per cent in agriculture, and 13 per cent in mining. We have also witnessed the establishment of 533 “new and necessary” industries out of 830 granted tax-exemption privileges by the government under Republic Act No. 901. Non-agricultural employment in 1289 establishments in the country has risen by 14.5 per cent during this period of expansion. Since 1954, more than 5586 manufacturing concerns have been established, many of which are producing commodities which we had to import in the past.

In spite of the substantial gain shown by the economy during the last four years, the country still has to increase production with greater diversity at a pace faster than the rapid population growth. Increased production for increased export and increased volume of domestic trade is the key to the solution of our problems of unemployment and unfavorable balance of payments.

The fact that the Philippines is still far from producing all the needs of the country underscores the continuing importance of foreign trade to our economy. There are certain consumer goods which we cannot now produce or hope to produce in the near future, but are nevertheless basic to maintain standards of living and public health. Among these are medicine and certain essential foodstuffs. We also have to import an increasing volume of machinery and raw materials required by our growing domestic industries.

### **Foreign Exchange Receipts**

— With their gradual removal already envisioned, exchange and import controls with all their attendant administrative difficulties continued to be a necessary part of the economic life during the last four years. Our aggregate capacity for external payments was inadequate to finance our increasing import requirements and servicing of foreign capital. Although the trade relations with the United States were somewhat improved by the Laurel-Langley Agreement, the trade imbalance persisted, partly owing to the loopholes in the controls and partly to the additional import demands generated by our developing industries. From 1954 to 1957 our foreign exchange earnings reached the record total of \$1.7 billion. However, our import payments amounted to \$2.3 billion. The trade deficit of \$600 million had to be paid from the dollar reserves. Aside from the vulnerability to wide fluctuations in world prices and the demand inherent in the raw material nature of our exports, the sale of our export products has been limited by trade restrictions in industrial countries and their discovery of cheaper substitutes.

Further affecting our foreign exchange receipts was the undue use of barter under Republic Act No. 1410. This diverted a considerable part of our dollar earnings into hoarded deposits abroad. It also facilitated additional non-essential imports and contributed to our failure to fill our sugar quota to the United States in 1957. Thus, the re-examination of Republic Act No. 1410 recommends itself to the attention of Congress. For the same reasons, I vetoed

Senate Bill No. 167, known as the Dollar Retention law, and suspended temporarily the processing of barter applications.

That we have succeeded to a certain extent in the judicious use of our international reserve to secure benefits to the economy is evident from the specific economic gains previously cited and the steady change in the pattern of our imports since 1949, when the government undertook to manage the country's foreign exchange resources directly.

### **Changing Patterns**

### **Trade**

— Of our total import disbursement from 1954 to November, 1957, \$0.4 billion went for the purchase of capital goods with which we are building the base of our industries, \$1.2 billion for raw materials to feed our growing number of factories, and \$0.5 billion for consumer goods to maintain the well-being and living standards of our people. We also find that Philippine trade has diversified considerably since 1954. In that year almost 64 per cent of our total trade was carried with one country, the United States. Today, with our total trade expanded from P1.8 billion in 1954 to P1.9 billion, we have channelled 42 per cent of it to Europe, Asia, and Central and South America. This geographical broadening of our trade is an encouraging feign of growing stability and lessened dependence on a single country as the source of our imports and the market for our exports.

### **LABOR**

There was considerable improvement in labor-management relations. Last year, 135 collective bargaining contracts were concluded. During the same period, 412 labor unions were accredited, bringing the total to 2676 since 1954. Eight regional offices, in addition to those in Manila, were set up in strategic points throughout the country to serve the nine million Filipino workers. Of the 57 strikes declared during the past year, 50 were satisfactorily settled through conciliation. Under the Workmen's Compensation Act, P8 million were paid to labor. Matching its acquisition of a widening range of improvements and benefits, labor is developing a deeper sense of responsibility which is helpful to industrial peace.

While the objective of affording our government employees more time for leisure and self-improvement through the enactment of the five-day law is laudable, its implementation has created certain problems in various government units. We should, therefore, give serious study to these problems, as they would affect the adoption of a general policy in this regard.

With respect to unemployment, our program of economic development will precisely produce increased job opportunities. While we believe that we are in some measure taking care of the annual additions to the employable labor force the backlog of unemployment is expected to be absorbed by the accelerated pace of our industries as well as their logical expansion consistent with our resources.

### **THE PRESENT PROBLEMS AND THE NECESSITY FOR AUSTERITY**

#### **Calculated**

#### **Risk**

— The Magsaysay Administration fully realized that the problem of mobilizing the resources necessary to implement the policy of accelerated development would be a difficult and complex task. It was, nevertheless, a task that had to be done if the country was to attain an

economic independence compatible with its political sovereignty. Accordingly, the Administration boldly resorted to the liberal use of national credit to cover the inevitable gap inherent in our underdeveloped country, between the growth of needed investment and voluntary savings. The only other alternative would have been to cut our essential development investment to a point where the budget would be balanced with no risk of inflation but at which economic forces would be at a standstill.

The aroused desires of our masses for improving their lot and the threat of communism left no choice to the Administration but to take the calculated risk inherent in the generous use of national credit for financing economic development. The risk that the program might generate inflationary pressures was taken after a careful appraisal of the situation and with the firm determination on the part of the Administration to retrench in its budgets and adopt safeguards whenever pressures would develop that would produce adverse effects on the economy.

#### **Failure of Envisioned Conditions**

Unfortunately, the envisioned conditions in the accepted program of development failed to materialize within the estimated time. Many of the proposed tax measures failed to get congressional approval while outlays for essential government services increased in response to the demands of a growing population, thus aggravating the inflationary pressures generated by the development spending. On the other hand, the private sector responded enthusiastically to the impulse policies of the development program which included tax incentives, subsidies, protection, and easy credit. As a result, private investment expanded at a rate beyond what was allocated in the budget of real resources. Most of the investment was at the same time diverted to capital intensive projects that required substantial amounts of foreign exchange. Likewise, the foreign exchange receipts of the country were undermined by overshipments, overpricing of imports and underpricing of exports, smuggling, and other practices to circumvent controls.

Upsetting further the forecasted monetary implications of the program were the continued inflationary pressures abroad, the Suez crisis, the rise in freight charges, all of which were reflected in a rise of prices of industrial and consumer goods that the country buys from foreign countries. As a result, the heavy spending for development of both the private and the public sectors exceeded the country's ability to produce and its capacity to export.

The Administration's program of development could not thus but unleash inflationary pressures; so the major task of the Administration was the prevention of such pressures from jeopardizing the development efforts and the living standards of the masses. Despite the inflationary effects of the program, however, domestic prices were kept at reasonable levels considered tolerable for a growing economy, by drawing on our international-reserve. In 1949, when exchange control was established, the consumer price index, with 1955 as base, was 101.6. By 1956, the index had settled at 102.7 after slipping down from the 1952 peak of 106.1 points.

#### **Sacrifice of International Reserve**

Without resorting to substantial foreign assistance, we achieved our economic progress at some sacrifice of our international reserve. The question of why the country's international reserve has continued to decline in spite of controls finds an answer in our committed

policy of development within a framework of monetary stability. The reserve has not been dissipated as the pattern of importation clearly demonstrates. It has been increasingly put to use to purchase the machinery and the tools of our industrialization without which no satisfactory solution to the problems of poverty and unemployment would ever be possible. In addition to the increased requirements of our growing industries, we dipped into our reserve for the expanding needs of our growing population for imported essential consumer goods. However, we cannot continue to draw on our dwindling reserve indefinitely at the present pace without undermining the international value of the peso and completely setting back our development program completely set at its crucial stages.

As we reached this limit, in drawing on our international reserve as the inflationary effects of the heavy spending for development became correspondingly greater on the domestic economy as indicated by recent spiraling of prices. No one in this country considers inflation compatible in our democratic system. Aside from its manifest social injustices, it creates social unrest. The Government and our citizenry are determined to insure economic and monetary stability even if this means a temporary retrenchment in our program.

## PROBLEMS AND RECOMMENDED SOLUTIONS

Thus far, I have presented to you a picture of our country that glows with the record of our growth and achievements. It is something of which we can justly be proud. But it would not be realistic and true to life if I did not point out its dark side. Life after all is a blend of sunlight and shadows, of successes and failures, of joys and sorrows. We do have problems and serious ones that challenge the best in us to solve them. Self-denial and even some sacrifices may be needed. We have the problems of food insufficiency, unemployment, rising prices, dwindling international reserve, decreasing revenue collections, increasing budgetary requirements, and other problems of equal importance and urgency. But with faith and courage we will meet these problems and solve them to the satisfaction of our people.

Economic problems are not solved in a day, and foreign assistance does not immediately jump at the beck of opportunity. We must, therefore, face the fact that we shall have to rely mainly on our own resources if we are to proceed with our development. It is clear that we cannot continue to draw on our international reserve at the present rate. But a slackening for a time of our consumption of dollars would mean either cutting down our imports of machinery and raw materials—or sacrificing more of our consumer imports in favor of the industrial. The cause of economic progress constrains us to take the latter course, while efforts are being exerted to explore sources of new capital from abroad.

We cannot expect to bring about the degree of economic improvement which we have set for our country without diverting a higher proportion of the national income to capital investment. Such a course inescapably entails our foregoing of less essential consumption and wasteful investment. This implies a policy of voluntary austerity on the part of our people since we are a democratic nation. Sacrifice and a policy of austerity will have to be adopted temporarily on many fronts.

## Meaning of Austerity

Austerity as a policy means temperate spending. It signifies more work, more thrift, more productive investment,



and more efficiency. It means less imports and less extravagant consumption. It is a challenge to our resiliency as a people to change our past habits and make thrift and economy our everyday way of living. Imposed on us by harsh realities; the exercise of austerity in our everyday life is a desirable end in itself. The Government will do all in its power to direct the main impact of this policy against, extravagant consumption and ostentatious living in a way that: will not affect the basic living standard of the ordinary individual. Curbing such consumption and eliminating wasteful and unproductive activities the only safe and sound way by which we can move ahead in our development program without running the risk of national retrogression. The situation calls for continuing energetic and courageous action on our part.

## Retrenchment

## Measures

## Adopted

During the early part of 1957, the Central Bank tightened existing selective control measures directed to meet the urgent requirements of trade and industry and arrest the expansion of credit for non-productive and speculative activities. Parallel to this, the bond financing of P264 million announced to Congress by my late predecessor was reduced to P250 million in May 1957 and to P194 million in August of the same year. Early this year, the amount was further pared down to P145 million.

Other measures of monetary retrenchment included the raising of the rediscount rate to 4 ½ per cent in September and the imposition of pre-import cash deposits in December.

The Cabinet is studying ways and means of suspending temporarily certain public services or expenditures that can be deferred. To improve our international reserve position, I have plugged loopholes in our controls and have suspended private barter transactions. I have also created a Producers Incentives Committee to look into feasible and practical ways of stimulating production, especially for exports. I am now exploring ways of promoting export expansion to bolster our international reserve. Arrangements for the receipt and distribution of Japanese reparations have been advanced.

These measures we have adopted so far to relieve the mounting strain on our scarce resources, may be drastic in certain respects. They are however, necessary to provide economy with a breathing period. Meantime, we are changing the phase of our economic program on a more selective basis to ensure that our efforts and resources, instead of being dissipated, are devoted first to the most important economic pursuits.

## PROPOSED COURSES OF ACTION

While adhering to the long-range overall goal of a balanced agro-industrial economic development, we have short-range targets that require our immediate and urgent attention if we are to surmount our present difficulties.

### I.

#### SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOODSTUFFS

Our first and immediate goal, as I have already announced in my inaugural address, is self-sufficiency in food, specifically in rice, corn, and fish. It is a challenge to our industry and sense of proportion as a people that, blessed with vast and virgin lands and a

favourable climate, we have so far failed to produce enough rice and corn to feed ourselves. Likewise, endowed with great bodies of water from which fish of all varieties can be had for the taking, we cannot supply even the minimum needs of our people. Yet, these commodities are the real index to our national well-being. They also exert a profound influence on the general level of prices. Abundant cheap rice may be our most effective weapon against inflation. I therefore propose an intensified rice production estimated to cost P20 million and expected to increase the rice yield by 6 million cavanese in the first year alone which, at P10 per cavan, would mean P60 million additional income,

**The ABC of Food Sufficiency Program**  
— Under this program, we envisaged: (a) the distribution of fertilizers, selected seeds and insecticides to small farmers of food crops; (b) the speeding up of the completion of irrigation projects now underway; and (c) the building of impounding reservoirs to guarantee adequate water supply even during drought. We must provide other aids and devise incentives, preferably in kind, and emphasize intensive and scientific cultivation. Similar measures must be taken with respect to fish and fowls and livestock.

Apropos of producing more foodstuffs, I further recommend that the fullest encouragement be given to food conservation and food preserving industries. The attainment of food sufficiency projected in this program can be of only limited benefits unless the surplus can be processed and stored for future use. This should help to ensure year-round availability of otherwise perishable commodities and to eliminate sharp seasonal price fluctuations.

I would also like to see the establishment of more commodity exchanges for our agricultural crops.

## II. FULLER UTILIZATION AND GREATER CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

We must not take for granted that our natural resources cannot be exhausted. They are direct blessings from the Divine Providence and it behooves us to utilize them economically and scientifically and to conserve and preserve them properly. The cutting of timber must be followed by reforestation; fishing must be followed by replenishment of our river and lakes with fry; mining must be done with high recovery method; and farming must be done with refertilization.

We often tell ourselves that we have natural resources greater in proportion than those of most other countries in the world. This is true. We have mineral wealth beneath our valleys and in the bowels of our mountains. Our nickel deposits in the Surigao reservation alone are said to be worth P10 million. In this connection, may I invite the attention of Congress that the law authorizing the development and exploitation of the Surigao deposits failed to attract bidders and should be amended, to liberalize its terms.

Perhaps even more important than the exploitation of our natural resources, however, is their proper conservation. All ways and means to stop the dynamiting of fish must be found; we must intensify fish culture in our fishing grounds. The law requiring the reforestation of areas subjected to lumber operation has not worked in practice, resulting in denuded forests and consequent disastrous floods and droughts. It will perhaps be necessary to withhold the release of cut timber from sale until after the concessionaire has complied with reforestation requirements.

Mining must be scientific so that extraction is thorough. Unextracted ores in abandoned or collapsed tunnels or pits are in most cases forever given up and lost. Lands must not be allowed to reach exhaustion but must be constantly kept productive by contour plowing, fertilizing, fallowing and other scientific measures. Our natural resources have been extended by the Almighty for the benefit of Filipinos until the end of time. It is our sacred obligation to conserve our national patrimony and transmit it to our posterity undiminished until time is no more.

### III. APPROPRIATION FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Intensive and extensive scientific research *is* a necessary hand-maiden of both the utilization and conservation of natural resources. I, therefore, request more appropriations for scientific research. Positive encouragement must be extended to private industry and the universities to enable them to cooperate to their fullest capacity with the Government to the end that they may ultimately take over the burden of such research work. The reduction of production costs, for instance, perhaps by simplified and more scientific procedures and by increased utilization of by-products, may save many of our export industries from adverse effects of the liquidation of the free trade with the United States. Research may enable us to raise all the cotton and ramie we need for our textile industry, kenaf for our bags, and the rubber for our tire and rubber industry. It may lead to the discovery of new uses, as raw materials or food or medicine or chemicals, of our crops, plants, and other products, and to the invention of machines and equipment suited to our farms, forests, and other needs.

I urge the coordination of the work of the different research and scientific agencies with a view to obtaining maximum results.

### IV. STABILIZATION OF FISCAL POSITION

As a first step towards the stabilization of the fiscal position of the Government, we must reinvigorate our revenue collection services by extending their intensive efforts in areas beyond Manila and take the necessary measures to insure that existing taxes are collected efficiently and equitably. To supplement our present revenues to meet the expanding needs of our growing population for essential government services, I am presenting in my budget message tax proposals designed to distribute the tax burden justly and fairly in accordance with the principle of ability to pay.

I propose a re-examination of the present policy of granting tax exemption to new and necessary industries with a view to correcting certain unsound pattern of investment resulting from the present policy.

We must revise our policy of price support so as to exclude low-grade or sub-standard products. The need for this revision is clearly demonstrated by the price support given to leaf tobacco under Republic Act No. 1194. To encourage low-grade production is wasteful and self-defeating.

We are committed to a gradual removal of controls. Towards this end, even within the restrictions of the Laurel-Langely Agreement, we must make more resourceful uses of tariffs such as the more widespread and more ingenious application of special duties.

As demonstrated by our experience, our economic development hinges significantly on our export trade; nevertheless, several of our export promotion measures have not been updated since we became independent. In order to make export expansion more feasible, I submit the following measures for your consideration:

- ## VI. REDIRECTION OF AVAILABLE CREDIT RESOURCES AND REORGANIZATION OF ECONOMIC AND BANKING BODIES

In line with the policy of doing first things first, I recommend that all arms and instruments of the government charged with the formulation and implementation of economic policies be endowed with efficient and effective organizations. I, therefore, urge the amendment of the Central Bank Charter so as to make possible the appointment of more members of the Monetary Board on full-time basis. I submit that the National Economic Council, while it should maintain its advisory character should be provided with an' executive arm to carry out the economic policies approved by the Council and confirmed by the President.

That the proceeds from the sales of capital goods from reparations should constitute a perpetual source of funds for investment in our economic development. To this end, the establishment of an Economic Development Bank capitalized with these proceeds is indicated. This is perhaps the only way to bring our people not only of this generation but of those yet to be born the benefits of reparations.

### **Mobilizing**

### **Hoarded**

### **Capital**

— Likewise, we should look into ways and means of flushing out hoarded capital so that it may be gainfully utilized. As an inducement for domestic capital to come out of hiding, we may offer tax amnesty and set higher interest rates for savings and time deposits.

## **VII. MORE EFFICIENT UTILIZATION OF OUR FOREIGN RESOURCES**

While economic controls cannot be immediately abolished, we must see to it that the administrative difficulties inherent in controls be kept to a minimum. As earlier stated, some of the objectives of these controls can be attained through a wise management of the tariff and customs laws which, however, will require amendatory legislation. The creation of a single agency of full-time members to centralize economic controls which are at present handled by the Central Bank, the Department of Commerce, the NAMARCO, and the Export Control Committee may be necessary while the government is directing its efforts to do away ultimately with controls.

At the same time we are stepping up the campaign against smuggling at our ports, sea frontiers, and other areas in order to prevent the leakage of dollars and the evasion of taxes.

We must try to get the optimum advantage out of our limited foreign exchange resources by funnelling them to these industries that can contribute most to our national income. Overcrowding in many industries needing imported capital equipment, investing in many lines of production not basic to our development, and importation of non-essential consumption goods are unnecessary drains on our foreign exchange. We should bring existing industries to their efficient productive capacity before going ahead with any but the most necessary new ventures.

Our domestic transportation system must be extensively revamped so as to do away with wasteful practices and conserve fuel and spare parts.

The NAMARCO should shift more of its activities to handling local manufacturers. Its dollar quota should be used for legitimate needs of Filipino retail business in accordance with the spirit of the Retail Trade Nationalization Act.

## **VIII. ENCOURAGEMENT AND PROMOTION OF OUR COTTAGE INDUSTRIES**

We must try to extend greater incentives and encouragement to our small producers on the cottage industry level.

Properly developed, this broad sector of the national productivity will be a tremendous boost to our economy as well as an additional means of tapping the talents and ingenuity which we as a people possess. These cottage industries, integrated and strengthened through the establishment of a common clearing house for the regulation of standards as well as for marketing and financing facilities, can become a solid base for further industrial growth.

## **IX. ATTRACTION OF FOREIGN INVESTMENTS, ASSISTANCE, AND FINANCING**

We must define in clear terms our foreign investment policy. It is my considered opinion that foreign investments, through welcome, should be admitted on a selective basis in order that legitimate Filipino business may be protected, particularly in fields already being fully exploited by our own nationals.

The remittance of net profits and repatriation of capital by foreign investors should be under most reasonable terms compatible with our exchange resources and development program. While efforts to obtain foreign loans for our development is believed necessary, domestic capital must be encouraged to participate fully in Philippine business.

## **X. PRICE STABILITY**

I must invite your urgent attention to the rise in prices of prime commodities, which appears to be artificial, that is causing undue hardships to our people. The preservation of the nation is the supreme law which no one can violate with impunity. I, therefore, ask Congress for broad powers to handle the situation swiftly and effectively in order to protect the people from those who would exploit them and who seem motivated by insatiable greed for profit.

## **XI. NATIONAL DEFENSE**

The advent of radical changes in military concepts occasioned by the strides made in science and technology makes it imperative for us to place under constant review the problems and requirements of our national defense establishment.

As the minimum requirement of adequate defense, I have earlier emphasized the necessity of reassessing the organizational structure of our Armed Forces in such a way as to make it a balanced and effective instrument for national defense. The aims of such a reassessment is to make our defense plans realistically consistent with our national capability.

I believe that our best contribution to our allies in the defense of the free world lies first in our ability to maintain peace and security in our own country.

I endorse the modernization of our Armed Forces as far as our resources would permit.

## **XII. WORLD DISARMAMENT**

I would like to restate solemnly my stand in favor of world disarmament. We should support in every possible and reasonable way all sincere efforts towards world disarmament. I understand that the world powers have spent and are spending billions of dollars in the armament race. With world disarmament, this huge expenditure can be devoted to the removal of the causes of war and the promotion of human welfare. In this way the human race will be assured of peace, goodwill, happiness, and contentment.

## **XIII. SHIFT OF EMPHASIS IN EDUCATION**

It is time to gear our educational system to our economic development program. Since up-to-date textbooks and modern equipment essential to efficient instruction are not being supplied adequately to our schools, their acquisition through sufficient appropriation should be given serious consideration.

## **XIV. PROMOTION OF TOURISM AND CULTURE**

As a means of augmenting our foreign earnings, we must promote tourism and improve local facilities to take care of the increased passenger and cargo traffic that passes through our country. Our cultural landmarks and public places must be kept in good condition, and new facilities for cultural expression and preservation must be provided. Art is dear to the Filipino soul.

#### **XV. EXPANSION OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

We must improve and expand our social services. To the many measures long in effect to promote this objective, was added only five months ago the Social Security Law which provides a system of mass insurance covering the non-governmental sector against disability, sickness, old age, and death. Before the passage of the law, less than three per cent of our nine million labor force enjoyed the protection of social insurance.

The combined savings of non-governmental employees augmented by the contribution, of employers have already placed in the coffers of the system the sum of P9 million which, invested in RFC bonds, has become available for economic development. In time, the system will be one of the richest sources of such capital. It appears advisable, however, that the law creating the system be amended to improve the benefits and conditions of membership and to make the system a more effective source of funds for economic development.

#### **XVI. PUBLIC SERVICE**

I shall continue to insist on honesty and integrity in the public service. I must serve stern warning that erring public servants will be dealt with severely but justly. Deserving employees, however, will be rewarded. This Administration will exert its utmost in combating all forms of graft and corruption in the government.

gentlemen of the congress: I have tried to report to you the true state of the nation. In addition to the recommendations I have submitted, I may from time to time during your session submit other recommendations for your consideration. I am sure that with the guidance of the Divine Providence and the unstinted cooperation of Congress, which counts among its members some of the finest minds and talents in our country, we shall in this crucial year begin our tenure by meeting the great expectations of our people with decisiveness, swiftness, boldness, and patriotism.

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Carlos P. Garcia, Second State of the Nation Address, January 26, 1959**

**Message  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
To the Congress  
On the State of the Nation**

[Delivered on January 26, 1959]

Mr. Senate President, Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress:

I address you today to sound a call for vital and bold decisions on the future of our national economy.

The eyes of our people are on us in this hall and their ears are cupped toward this lectern on which I stand, in anxious anticipation of what the national leadership, which you and I share by their will under the Constitution, will say and do in the way of meeting and overcoming the obstacles and difficulties of a trying situation and keeping the nation on an even keel.

I say, first of all, that I have full faith in the Filipino people's capacity to emerge with flying colors out of any and all crises. We went through the hell of it under a ruthless military occupation government for four years and survived with a more sturdy and rugged national spirit. Once again with the determination of a united people deriving inspiration from our heroic past and our dream of a glorious tomorrow and with divine guidance and help we shall emerge triumphant out of the present predicament. But we must keep our equanimity. I am confident we shall be equal to the task. There is absolutely no cause for despair. At any rate, whatever problems may beset us—whether the national economy or any other—the can be solved only with calmness even as we have to deliberate, determines, and decisive in action. We cannot afford to indulge in defeatism or in negative or divisive thinking.

I shall be forthright. The need for fiscal and economic stabilization is urgent and must be met by the Government with the full support of all elements comprising the nation. On the part of the Government, the executive and legislative branches are especially called upon to formulate wisely and, more than that, to implement determinedly, once and for all, the most effective courses of action. On the part of the people, the most productive efforts, thrift, and consistently sustained willingness to contribute to the common weal must become a reality.

As head of the Executive Department, I hereby pledge that all its efforts shall be directed at conducting government affairs on the basis of strict economy, of worth public endeavors, and of sagacious utilization of the people's assets and contributions to undertakings that will pay back dividends to them in terms of service and steady progress.

### **THE ECONOMIC PROBLEM**

**Problem of Development.**—Indeed, we have progressed. The difficulties with which we are confronted today are a paradox. They arose precisely because of the strides we have made in industry, agriculture, and other phases of the economy speeded up during the past five years.

Substantial progress has been made in production. For the first time since the war, we have such a bumper rice crop this year. The production of corn and other agricultural products has shown much significant gains that warrant the claim that we have attained self-sufficiency in food. Unquestionably, industrial output has been on the rise.



**Deficit Financing.**—In my report on the state of the nation a year ago, I pointed out that the threat of Communism as well as the natural desire of our people to improve their lot prompted the administration of my late predecessor to accelerate economic development, to the extent of taking a calculated risk inherent in the liberal use of national credit. Faced with limited savings characteristic of an undeveloped economy, the nation had to resort to credit creation. This was in order to cover the inevitable gap between the growth of needed investments and voluntary savings to finance the public works and power projects necessary in launching the momentum of development. The alternative would have been not to undertake development projects at all. This, in turn, would have consigned our economy to stagnation, our people to poverty, and the nation to frustration.

The government granted tax exemptions, priority dollar allocations for raw materials, easy credit for essential industries, and protection through controls. Stimulated by these development policies, a stepped-up rate of investment both in the public and the private sectors yielded significant gains.

**Inflationary Pressures.**—However, and this is the crux of the matter, at the rate at which these investments in public and private sectors have been undertaken and because of the way they have been financed, which is by expanding credit, it is inevitable that the pressures of inflation have become more pronounced.

In 1958, this was aggravated by the economic recession among our principal trading partners—a factor beyond our control.

The immediate problem today is how to check the inflationary forces that are exerting a heavy pressure on our international reserves. At the same time, we should maintain the momentum of development at an appropriate rate so that the gains we have already achieved will not be dissipated. Thus, the country will forge ahead towards its goal of development. We cannot afford to stop. We must not stop.

**Development Momentum.**—In the midst of the vicissitudes around us, I propose that we carry on with our economic development program within the scope of real resources available to us. We cannot freeze the economic development program although we have to decelerate to some extent our national budget financed by higher levels of tax revenues so that effective demand may be reduced, and our international reserve replenished while our industrial and agricultural production continues a healthy pace. To these we must add the need for establishing new or widening external markets.

**Social Objectives.**—Nor must we lose sight of social objectives which can be achieved only through economic development, if our people are to have the more, materially as well as spiritually, satisfying life they hope for and expect. We cannot abandon the masses to perennial poverty. We cannot even allow the present unemployment situation and the high cost of living to remain static much longer. We must act to check their rise.

We must bring economic stability to the common man and his family as well as to the nation at large. We must pursue a course which will bring about a good balance between agricultural and industrial developments. We must reduce our deficit financing for economic development. We must exert fresh efforts to increase revenues from new and revised taxes to be returned, as I have said, to our people in the form of public services and wider opportunities for expansion and employment.

## **OUR ECONOMIC ASSETS**

Notwithstanding the grave difficulties encountered last year, this nation has continued to progress in general. Since 1954, the national economy has grown tremendously in volume of physical production. The national income has increased by about six per cent a year during the past five years.

**Agriculture.**—An overall increase of seven per cent in the volume of food crop production over that of the previous year was achieved through an intensive food production campaign. Technical and export crops, except sugar, also increased during the year.

The livestock population also made significant gains during the same year, increasing by eight per cent over that of the preceding year.

**Mining.**—Mineral production, one of the primary sources of export earnings, has gone up by more than 50 per cent since 1954 though it has not yet recovered its pre-war level. Gold production showed a substantial rise of six per cent in 1958 over that of 1957. This was the outcome of concessions to the industry in the form of liberal allocations of foreign exchange for equipment and of the grant to owners of blocked funds of the privilege to purchase gold for resale to the Central Bank for foreign exchange. Production of base metals, such as chromite, iron, and quicksilver, declined in 1958 with the slackening of world demand and prices.

**Manufacturing Activity.**—Since 1954 when we launched our development program, manufacturing activity has recorded a spectacular 52 per cent advance. The establishment of 134 new tax-exempt industrial concerns in 1958 continued the trend of previous years. These industries are largely in food and consumer goods manufacture, textiles, plastics, fabrication of containers, chemicals and fertilizers, pulp and paper.

**Public Works, Power, Transportation.**—In its efforts to intensify agricultural production, with particular emphasis on achieving self-sufficiency in food, the Government continued to make heavy investments in social overhead projects.

The main and feeder road networks have been improved and expanded.

The Manila Railroad Company has completed the second year of full dieselization of locomotives resulting in substantial reduction in fuel and lubricant consumption.

The Central Luzon electrification project is underway and the construction of the biggest hydro-electric plant in the Philippines in Binga, with an estimated rated capacity of 100,000 kilowatts, is expected to be completed next year.

Operations of the Philippine Air Lines continue to play a vital role in the economic life of the Philippines. Domestic operations for Philippine cities and towns were improved by expanding existing landing fields to accommodate heavier traffic. Plans are completed for our return to foreign or international service. The international tourist trade can be further expanded.

**Credit Facilities.**—The increasing activity of commerce and industry is reflected in the growth of banking facilities throughout the country. There are 131 commercial and savings banks and branches today. Total resources of our banking system have correspondingly expanded. Whereas there were no rural banks in 1949, there are now 120 of them distributed throughout the rural areas. Likewise, 500 cooperative marketing associations now provide small farmers with credit, storage, and marketing services.

**Foreign, Trade and Payments.**—Our foreign trade has intensified, with exports and imports showing an upward surge compared with 1953 levels. Our exports aggregated P801 million in 1954; they totaled P897 million in 1958, chalking up a notable increase of P96 million in four years. Imports which amounted to P957 million in 1954, increased to P1.1 billion in 1958.

While importation of foodstuff added a burden on our international reserve, the pattern of imports has been significantly revised. More than 80 per cent of imports last year were capital goods and raw materials. Only the balance of 20 per cent went to consumer goods. The increase in export production and the modified import pattern reflected an overall economic gain for the country in foreign trade.

As we can see, our foreign exchange earnings have not kept pace with the rising internal demand for imports. The gap had to be financed from our international reserve so that our development program would not be paralyzed at its crucial first stages. Because of leakages, estimated at about \$80 million, through barter, no-dollar importations and illegal export and import practices, the contribution to our free international reserve from export earning in 1958 was far from satisfactory. Furthermore, what was available from foreign loans in the second half of 1958 did not

contribute to meeting fully our actual development requirements for foreign exchange. Mainly as a result of the austerity measures in handling resources, we were able to reduce our unfavorable overall balance of payments (deficit) from \$124 million in 1957 to \$17 million in 1958. At the rate we are going, we hope to wipe out this remaining negligible deficit in our foreign trade during the next fiscal year and start chalking up favorable balance of payments thereafter. But the decline in our international reserve persisted as result of efforts to provide our expanding industries with their increasing raw material requirements and to stabilize domestic prices of prime commodities.

**Domestic Trade.**—Domestic trade made progress during the year under review. The implementation of the Retail Trade Nationalization Act and the Retailers' Fund Law gave encouragement and support to many of our native retail stores.

The Government price stabilization agencies assisted Filipino retailers in improving their merchandizing activities and in increasing their participation in distribution, in order to stabilize the prices of commodities in short supply.

## **THE FISCAL SITUATION**

Last year, I stressed to you, Gentlemen of the Congress, the need for raising additional sources of revenues amounting to P158.7 million to finance our expanded fiscal operations required by our growing population and committed policies of development. Unfortunately, none of the various revenue measures was finally approved except the Tax Census Bill. On the other hand, supplementary appropriation/bills were approved by Congress which increased the expenditure proposals in our budget, thus widening the disparity between revenues and expenditures. In an effort to adhere as closely as possible to the principle of a balanced budget and to minimize the need for deficit financing with its adverse inflationary repercussions on the national economy, the Administration had to go on rigid austerity. It scaled down expenditures at the beginning of the fiscal year by P259.4 million. Towards the end of calendar year 1958, our fiscal situation was confronted by indications that revenues would be less than expected owing to the drop in customs collections. Once again, the Executive Branch was constrained to apply further stringent retrenchments in government expenditures. Of the total recommended cuts by the Fiscal Committee of the Cabinet amounting to P74 million, I could only approve P18.6 million because I did not believe in cuts that would sacrifice essential services, especially those in the Department of Education.

Austerity had to go deep into our capital investment for development. The originally envisaged amount of P375 million with general revenue funds, special funds, and bond issues as components was scaled down to P275 million. Of this amount, P175 million was to come from bond issued, but even this ceiling was brought down to P110 million, the irreducible minimum needed to prosecute to termination those projects already started by private contractors with orders already placed abroad. Besides, most of these projects were essential to those already in operation. I present these unprecedented retrenchments in the total amount of P278 million as an answer to those who say that the Administration has reneged from its policy of austerity.

Together with the retrenchments in government expenditures, efforts were intensified to tap new sources of savings to finance our country's development. This was to avoid usual credit creation which brings about inflation and the risk of a substantial drain on the international reserve.

As pointed out in my budget message last year, we must recognize that the present revenue sources are no longer adequate to finance the requirements of an accelerated development program. During the fiscal year 1958 only eight per cent of the national income was diverted to the public sector in the form of taxes. It is obvious that we can raise this percentage by reducing consumption taxes and by increasing direct taxes on income and wealth thereby making an equitable distribution of tax burden on the basis of capacity to pay.

## **THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE**

**Labor.**—The national concern over unemployment found cause for optimism in the 1958 Labor-Management Congress during which labor and management together formulated plans designed to reduce the areas of unemployment. I will endorse several of these proposals to this Congress for consideration.

**Social Security.**—Since the Social Security Act was implemented in 1957, 1,400,000 employers and employees throughout the Philippines have been covered against the hazards of death, disability, and sickness as well as of old age. Direct social security benefits are now extended to them. The System has also generated P28 million in public and private investments for the economic development of the country within a little more than a year.

However, our agricultural laborers who constitute the balance of 65 per cent of our workers are not yet enjoying the protective coverage of social security. This matter claims immediate attention of Congress.

The Government Service Insurance System continues to provide security benefits for workers in the public service. It has granted benefits in the form of pensions, disability and death payments, and financial assistance to 272,000 government workers and pensioners at the rate of about P3 million monthly.

**Resettlement.**—Our committed policy of providing land to the landless through the resettlement of our idle manpower in underdeveloped areas is being implemented by the National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Administration (NARRA). Now 15,000 families are eagerly waiting for their chance to be resettled.

The Land Tenure Administration last year acquired 16 new landed estates located in different areas.

**Housing for the Masses.**—We are faced with the problem of housing for the working masses. For this purpose, I am asking the backing of Congress to an extensive low-cost house-building program in which the active participants are the SSS, the GSIS, the HFC, and the PHHC. This plan envisages a coordinated program of low-cost housing at nominal amortizations within an extended period of from 10 to 30 years to enable every earning laborer-family of the Philippines to own a part of their native land and earn the dignity of being a stockholder in the Philippines body-politic.

**Social Services.**—Through the Social Welfare Administration, the Government has extended material aid to over half a million people. Homeless men and women were resettled from squatter areas. Victims of typhoons, fires, floods, and other public calamities received immediate relief and aid. Self-help projects were developed all over the country. Institutional care was provided for orphans, the aged, and the infirm.

**Health.**—The Department of Health has managed to forestall any widespread epidemic throughout the country. It has also reduced morbidity and mortality.

The Department of Health has been undergoing organizational and structural changes to decentralize and simplify the distribution of services to the greater bulk of our population.

Tuberculosis control measures were maintained through chest clinics and mobile preventive teams.

The malaria control program was expanded with the Filaria Pilot Project and the Regional Malaria Training Center.

## **EDUCATION AND SCIENCE**

New progress has been made in the field of education with the adoption of the Revised Educational Program, the curricula in the public and private elementary and secondary schools have been enriched and made more responsive to our social and economic needs. Increased emphasis has been given to science, mathematics, and vocational education.

Educational opportunities have been extended to more children and adults than ever before. As a result, our percentage of illiteracy has been reduced from 50 per cent in 1948 to 30 per cent this year.

The community school program has continued to stimulate and improve community living, principally in the rural areas.

Character education and optional religious instruction have been intensified as a way of counteracting juvenile delinquency.

Financial difficulties have not been fully overcome, however, in giving every child of school age educational opportunities. The increasing number of children applying for admission every year at an average of 500,000 children continually compounds the problem.

In this connection, we must recognize the role that private schools have in our educational system. Their contribution to the country should be geared at all times to the public interest and their activities attuned to our national objectives.

There is a definite need of placing on a permanent and sound footing the financing of our educational system.

Our efforts in scientific research and investigations have made some headway with the organization of the National Science Development Board and the Philippine Atomic Energy Commission. As additional funds are made available for this purpose, scientific and technological researches will be pursued in a systematic manner with a view to harnessing science for the attainment of our economic goals. The objective of increasing the economic utilization of our agricultural and natural resources, of expanding our export products and external markets, as well as of building a reservoir of competent scientists and technologists would be assured.

## **NATIONAL SECURITY**

I am happy to report to you that our Armed Forces have kept faith with our democratic tradition and have continued to serve as a stabilizing force in the health growth of our democratic institutions. Thus, our people are able to dedicate their full energies to productive pursuits in an atmosphere of internal peace.

With respect to defense preparations for our national security against any potential aggressor, our Armed Forces have improved their defensive effectiveness.

I wish to draw your attention to the need for maintaining at least the nucleus of the Armed Forces whose primary mission should be the training of our manpower potential not only to defend our territory but also to meet such minimum defense requirements as a consequence of commitments with our friends and allies.

## **ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**

During the past year, there was an increased output of cases disposed by the courts. The courts of first instance, out of 55,454 cases filed were able to dispose of 48,081, leaving a backlog of 7373 cases. The justice of the peace courts, out of 92,000 cases filed, disposed of 91,000 cases, leaving a backlog of 1,000 cases. The Municipal Court of Manila alone, out of 186,900 cases filed, disposed of 176,474 cases, leaving a backlog of 10,426 cases. But this court made a total collection in fines and fees amount to P880,406.23. The Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, out of a total 3,079 cases filed, disposed of 1,525 cases leaving a backlog of 1,554 cases.

These facts manifest a fresh determination of the judiciary to cope with the fast growing number of court cases. Most often, the nature of our judicial processes, as a result of centuries of formalistic rituals, has retarded their disposition. I would therefore commend to the attention of Congress further simplification of judicial procedure to do away with unessential formalities and get to the core of judicial bodies that administer the socio-economic program of the Government. The Court of Industrial Relations, the Court of Agrarian Relations, and the Agricultural Tenancy Commission have contributed in promoting industrial and agrarian peace.

The Court of Industrial Relations, out of a total of 804 cases filed, disposed of 619, leaving a backlog of 185 cases. It also investigated 413 cases of unfair labor practices. The Court of Agrarian Relations handled during the past year 4,820 cases. Out of these it was able to dispose of 3,000 cases, leaving a backlog of 1,820 cases. However, it was able to serve 41,830 tenants and 9,450 landlords.

The Agricultural Tenancy Commission handled 3,560 cases and amicably settled 2,045 cases. It rendered a total of 6,400 legal opinions for landlords and tenants and served 9,371 tenants and landlords through its mediation activities.

The Court of Tax Appeals, out of 165 cases filed, disposed of 79 cases, leaving a backlog of 86 cases.

There is need for reforms in the penal administration. I note that Congress has taken cognizance of conditions in our national penitentiary and of the need for remedial legislation.

## **THE PUBLIC SERVICE**

In our every essay at making our social and economic objectives a fact accomplished, we are hampered by a cancer gnawing at our national entrails. Graft and corruption, I say, is not a political question but a national problem. I do not intend to shirk the responsibility of the Administration, but I propose that we all handle this chronic ailment in the body of our Government as a common problem, the people's as well as the Government's—of its executive, legislative, and judicial branches.

The problem of graft and corruption in the government is not peculiar to our administration in our country. Nor is it a new one. It has plagued all administrations before us. Nevertheless, I do not condone nor minimize the significance of this blight. On the contrary, we in the Administration recognize its existence. We diagnose it. We identify and expose it. We combat it every day. Modesty aside, this Administration has gone farther than any other in the past on this matter by consistently exposing and encouraging exposure of all cases of iniquity. If it seems there are more of such at present, it is because of the unrelenting exposure of it.

I have set no bars to investigations of graft and corruption. I have taken the initiative in ferreting it out wherever it may thrive. The PCAPE and the investigating body at Customs were created for this purpose.

I have consistently insisted on honesty and integrity in the public service and I say again that erring public officials will be dealt with severely but justly. I do not propose to send innocent men to jail just so the Administrations could crow that it has sent people to jail. That would be compounding injustice to injury. But I do propose to deal accordingly with those against whom evidence warrants such action, not only to rid the Government of these undesirables but also to set the example to others who would make of public service a means to ill-gained private wealth.

We are blessed in this country with the freedom of speech and expression whose potent instrument is the Press. Let the public official live in its searching light, fearing nothing if he has nothing to hide and ever ready to defend himself gallantly wherever he is questioned. The Press, however, should focus its searchlight directly on the grafters and the corrupt ones and not hide or forget their identities by blaming the Administration therefore merely for the sake of commercialized sensationalism.

## **FOREIGN RELATIONS**

The all pervasive basic philosophy of our foreign policy is to help secure international peace so that in honor and in freedom we may live in its healthy atmosphere, side by side with other nations on the basis of equality.

In my first report to you on the state of the nation, I pointed out that our national security was anchored on our own internal strength as well as on our cooperation with the United Nations, buttressed by regional arrangements and by our mutual defense alliance with the United States of America.

While it must be candidly admitted that international tensions have not subsided, the effectiveness of our position in that regard has been demonstrated. In spite of the several international crises in 1958, one of which exploded over Quemoy—so close to our shores—the measures and the instrumentalities on which we depended were not found wanting. On the contrary, they did their part in staving off a widespread holocaust.

We therefore propose to broaden our participation in the United Nations for advancing the cause of world peace. With our friends in the United Nations we shall work for this cause as truly an equal partner.

We have to admit realistically, however, that this cause still has a long way to go. The fact that power remains a threat to nations and peoples, because others would use it to dominate them, call for the generation also of defense power to forestall aggression. In this regard, we have to rely on the friends and allies.

Our staunchest friend and ally is America with whom we have a treaty of mutual defense, which even now is being perfected to bring it closer to the ideal basis of sovereign equality.

To this end, exploratory talks on the diplomatic level are being undertaken to bring into harmony points of divergence on the question of military bases in this country, redefining the mutual defense concept and readjusting Philippine-American defense arrangements with the United States.

We hope to reach a happy and realistic conclusion of this task this year in a spirit of mutual respect and cordial understanding.

Already, we have concluded an agreement for the creation of a Mutual Defense Board and the placement of Filipino liaison officers in American bases in the Philippines. We have also concluded another agreement for the complete turn-over to the Philippine Government of American military reservations in the Manila Port area. This agreement has been actually implemented.

In the regional defense area, the SEATO has unanimously approved at its last Ministers' Meeting in Manila our Government's proposal for consultative liaison at Secretariat level among the three regional defense arrangements of the free world—the NATO, the Baghdad Pact, and the SEATO itself.

In the economic phase of our foreign relations we are continually exploring the capability and suitability of the Colombo Plan for our development requirements.

Without veering away from America, but rather in pursuit of our own resolution to help in spreading the gospel of democracy in Asia, we have drawn ourselves closer to our immediate neighbors in this part of the globe. Last year, I paid visits of state, first, to the United States, then to Japan. In both countries, I was received with the utmost cordiality and warm friendship as President of the Republic. I feel that, more than anything else, both visits resulted in the priceless boon of closer understanding and mutual esteem between the two countries and ours.

I went to Washington on a goodwill mission, to reaffirm friendship and deeper mutual understanding with the great leader of the Free World. I went to Japan also, on a goodwill mission to manifest a Christian spirit towards a former enemy with whom we would open anew chapter of friendship and amity. We received such a hearty and fervent response from the Japanese Government and people that they broke long established precedents to manifest friendship. In the spirit of friendship the United States and Japan would extend to us a helping hand. We accept this in the same spirit.

Incidental to my trip to Washington, we have been assured of a loan from the Export-Import Bank in the amount of \$75 million and \$50 million from the Development Loan Fund. Fresh advices from our Washington embassy are to the effect that approval of the release of these loans is forthcoming. We also received assurances that the United States Congress would consider the settlement of the amount due us because of the devaluation of the dollar in 1933. The President of the United States has already recommended the appropriation of the sum to the United States Congress besides economic aid for the Philippines.

With Japan, we have concluded a cooperative agreement under which the construction of the Marikina multi-purpose project and the extension of the telecommunications system on a nationwide scale would be undertaken.

In our policy of moving closer to our neighbors in Asia, we have tightened bonds of amity with them to a greater measure than heretofore—with South Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, South Korea, Nationalist China, Laos, Cambodia, India, Burma, and Malaya. The President of South Vietnam and the Prime Minister of Malaya were recently distinguished state visitors of our country. I propose to return such visits as soon as possible. As opportunity offers, I shall visit as many Asian countries as possible to attest in deeds our avowed desire to be their friend and good neighbor.

In relation to Nationalist China, we have been able to reach a tentative agreement on a diplomatic level on the question of the so-called overstaying Chinese visitors in the Philippines. The Chinese Ambassador and our Secretary of Foreign Affairs are finalizing this diplomatic agreement which upholds the pertinent laws of the Philippines while at the same time extending the highest human consideration to a friendly people.

The Department of Foreign Affairs has implemented the creation of a legation in Rangoon, Burma, the Hague, and Netherland, and the establishment of eight new consular posts in different parts of the world in addition to our already established foreign embassies, legations, and agencies. We propose the creation of separate diplomatic missions in Malaya and Laos.

I would like also to point out the need for continued representation of our country in international conferences and congresses, especially those of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, as well as the international conventions on sugar, abaca, and other export products. These are representations we cannot afford to miss if we must maintain our international prestige and promote our international trade.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND NEW GOALS**

Today, the Philippines finds herself in the flux of development in spite of many odds. Among important items in this development being attained may be mentioned the following: (a) the conclusion of agreement with Japan to build the multi-purpose Marikina project to generate industrial power for waterworks and industrial use and will irrigate 6,200 hectares of ricelands; (b) the telecommunications project which will connect the provinces, cities, municipalities and even rural areas to Manila; (c) the completion of the Binga hydroelectric project with a capacity of 100,000 kilowatts; (d) the extension of the MRR to Cagayan Valley and Sorsogon with work about to be started; (e) the construction of a Mindanao development road system of almost 800 kilometers, of which 419 kilometers have already been completed; (f) the establishment of a merchant marine to increase our tonnage of foreign shipping through the acquisition of 12 ships by the NDC with a total dead-weight tonnage of 130,000 and an additional tonnage of 35,200 already obtained through the Reparations Agreement, our immediate goal here being 500,000 tons of foreign shipping; and (g) the establishment of new industries in 1958, among the most important of which being the multi-million peso Republic Flour Mill with four others to follow; and (h) the establishment of a ramie processing plant in Davao.

But with all these we have still to achieve many other advances. We have vaster economic frontiers to explore, other goals to attain, among which may be mentioned the following: (1) the establishment of our integrated steel industry with three units principally in Ilagan where cheap Camarines Norte, and still another one in Angat, Bulacan, for which a loan of \$74,000 from the U.S. Export-Import Bank has been solicited and reported due soon; (2) the exploitation of our laterite mines in Surigao; (3) the propulsion of the oil mining industry in Cagayan Valley, Cebu, etc.; (4) the building and intensification of feeder roads in agriculturally developing areas like Mindanao and Cagayan Valle; (5) the building of the Luzon super-highway; (6) the modernization of inter-island shipping with a view to cheapening the fare and improving the service; (7) the construction of adequate modern airports and strengthening of the PAL to enable it to enter in to the international aviation service; (8) the realization of the reclamation projects for Manila, Cebu and other ports; (9) the intensified development of home and cottage industries; (10) the acceleration of production of rubber and cotton; (11) the greater development of fishing, livestock and dairy industries; and (12) the building of the Angat hydro electric project for industrial power, river control, and irrigation to be financed out of the Development Loan Fund of \$50 million, also reported for industrial power. It is bigger than the Marikina project. Its reservoir will have a capacity of 696 million cubic meters that will solve the water shortage of Manila and outlying regions now served by the Metropolitan Water District. It will provide water for irrigation of 25,950 hectares of farmland and establish flood control facilities in 18 towns in Bulacan and Pampanga.



These objectives are the details that achieved and put together, add up to the grand total—the realization of the nation's aspiration to establish a well balanced agro-industrial economy.

But let us not lose sight of the fact that the principal limiting factor to the attainment of the goals I succinctly summarized is the supply of foreign exchange. It is in connection with this problem that a more deliberate study should be undertaken. We can, however, take comfort and even pride from the achievement that whereas in 1957 our dollar reserve faced a balance-of-payment deficit of \$124 million, in 1958 we brought it down to \$17 million. Still it is commonly agreed that we have the imperative need of increasing the supply of dollars. We have the following ways open to us, viz., (1) the further expansion of our export industries; (2) encouragement of the right kind of foreign investment; (3) tapping all possible resources from abroad, including loans and procurement of productive machinery on a deferred payment plan; (4) the abolition of the barter trade and the no-dollar import law; and (5) the utilization of reparations payments to capital investment.

The procurement of goods and services under the reparation's program will help finance the foreign exchange needs of our economic development. In 1957-1958 the total goods and services contracted for or procured by the Reparations Commission amounted to over \$70 million, of which \$42.6 million has been spent to meet the needs of the government projects and \$27.4 million channeled to private industry. The Administration's policy is to allocate in an increasing measure future procurements under the program to meet the needs of the private sector of our national economy. However, in order to ensure the maximum utilization of reparations goods for the realization of the country's development policies, it is desirable to amend the Reparations Law. Such desirable amendments I shall specify forthwith.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

In view of the foregoing considerations I have the honor to submit for your kind consideration the following recommendations:

### **I. OUR FISCAL PROBLEMS**

Allow me to reiterate with undiminished vigor and emphasis that I am definitely against the devaluation of the peso. This is a measure that may prove beneficial to a handful of privileged classes, but it will certainly bring hardships and suffering to millions of our people. In order to avoid a forced devaluation of our currency, we must take the necessary measures to stabilize the Government's fiscal position, by increasing its revenue through a more equitable tax program based on ability to pay, and by enforcing a more efficient and effective collection system. I shall elaborate on the fiscal stabilization program in my forthcoming budget message.

Our present difficulties pose a challenge to the fiscal statesmanship of the Executive and the Congress. We are confronted with two alternatives. The first is to recognize the need for raising revenues for the financing of our expanding economic development program, and then to act boldly and manfully upon that need. The economic development requirements for which we must find financial support are as diverse as they are essential to our continued progress and well-being.

We must build up our maritime fleet, both domestic and foreign. We must push on our irrigation program. We have to build roads and bridges over agricultural and mining areas to connect them with ports. As a necessary step towards genuine industrialization, we have to set up an integrated steel manufacturing industry. We must carry on such projects as the construction of feeder roads in rural areas; the development of industrial power by harnessing waterfalls and rivers; the improvement of ports and harbors; the undertaking of reclamation work and river control; the installation of waterworks and artesian wells, etc.

We also need financing for our progressively expanding social services; such as, community development projects in the rural areas, the program of providing land to the landless through such instrumentalities as the NARRA and the Land Tenure Administration, and the program of giving homes to the homeless through such agencies as the PHHC, the Home Financing Commission, the Social Security System, and the GSIS. We must keep the channels of easy and accessible credit open to our small farmers and traders through the Home Financing Commission, the

Social Security System, and the GSIS. We must keep the channels of easy and accessible credit open to our small farmers and traders through the ACCFA, the rural banks network, and the Development Bank of the Philippines. We have to continue helping the Filipino businessman through such instrumentalities as the NAMARCO and the Retailers Fund. The education of our school-age population, which is increasing at the rate of 500,000 yearly, is a responsibility that we intend to discharge fully.

All these, as I have said, will require adequate support and financing, and we have the choice of rising up to this challenge and measuring up to this opportunity by exercising fiscal statesmanship of the highest order.

The other alternative we may choose is to refuse to raise the revenues necessary to support our program and in effect adopt a policy of stagnation.

I know that in this momentous hour of decision the resounding answer of Congress to the challenge will be for progress—never retrogression; for growth—never economic atrophy; for dynamic development—not stagnation. It will be for social uplift, for economic stability and security, and for the general well-being of the Filipino people, at any cost.

## **II. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

I recommend strongly the consideration and approval of amendments to our Constitution called for by our accumulated experience and changing conditions since this document came into effect more than two decades ago.

I recommend approval of the amendments necessary to bring about the synchronization of elections, national and local, once every four years.

I recommend that senators be elected on the basis of specific senatorial districts. Let the conservative and stabilizing role of the Senate in our bicameral system be maintained by extending eight-year terms to its members, one-half of whom will be chosen by the electorate every quadrennial election.

I recommend that the 30-day period given to the President within which to approve or veto bills passed by Congress be reckoned, in the case of every bill, from the date of its submittal to the President and not from the date of the adjournment of session.

It is likewise recommended that, in the event the annual general appropriation act for an ensuing fiscal year is not approved, the general appropriation act for the current fiscal year should be deemed continued in force, until such time as the new fiscal year's budget is passed.

I recommend that a Presidential Electoral Tribunal be provided for in our Constitution and not in an ordinary act to hear and decide protests in connection with presidential elections.

Finally, the provision on the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus may be re-examined to attune it to the spirit of democracy.

I am aware that some of you may be interested in other Constitutional amendments besides those I have just recommended. May I counsel, however, that since Constitutional amendments require for their approval the three-fourths vote of all the members of both chambers of Congress, we should concentrate our efforts for the present on those changes that best enjoy the prospect of approval, leaving controversial amendments to further study and crystallization of opinion.

## **III. THE NO-DOLLAR IMPORT AND BARTER LAW**

The implementation of Republic Act No. 1410, more popularly known as the No-Dollar Import Law or the Barter Trade Law, has resulted in the drainage of our Barter Trade Law, has resulted in the drainage of our dollars at a rate roughly estimated at \$80 million a year.

Likewise, the duty-free importation of so-called personal effects by returning residents has opened the way to flagrant abuses and frauds, thus depriving the government of badly needed revenues. It has offered new temptations to graft and corruption.

The operation of this law has given rise furthermore to over-shipment, down-grading, and under-pricing of exports and over-pricing of imports, enabling the perpetrators of these evil practices to “salt away” in foreign countries millions of dollars that should have gone to our reserves.

To do away with these evils and abuses, it is strongly recommended that Act No. 1410 be repealed and all the offices created under it, abolished.

#### **IV. MULTI-CURRENCY RESERVE**

In place of the barter trade authorized under Republic Act No. 1410, whose repeal I have just recommended for the purpose of opening up new and expanding other markets for our products in addition to the American market, I propose the institution or creation of a multi-currency reserve in the Central Bank. It is true that the power to create a multi-currency reserve is already vested in the Central Bank by its charter, Republic Act No. 265. But I believe that such an action of far-reaching national and even international consequences should bear the stamp of legislative authority, and it is for this reason that I am placing this recommendation before you.

#### **V. THE TAX-EXEMPTION LAW**

I strongly recommend the re-examination of Republic Act No. 901, more popularly known as the Tax Exemption Law for new and necessary industries, in order to check the abuses that have been committed under its protective mantle.

It has been discovered that many holders of certificates of tax exemption have not actually established their industries, but have nevertheless exercised the privilege of importing commodities duty-free which, instead of being applied to their industries, are sold like ordinary imports at great profit. These holders of certificates of tax exemption, by the collusive practice of “purchase in transit” have facilitated non-tax-exempt traders to import duty-free goods worth millions of pesos, thus depriving the government of so much customs revenues. It is also well known that many tax-exempt industries are not keeping proper books of accounts, and have placed themselves beyond the reach of BIR examiners.

There is therefore a clear need to re-examine the Tax-Exemption Law in order to curb these abuses and stop loss of revenues. We must bear in mind that the principal objective for which this law was approved, which was to stimulate and encourage the establishment of industries in our country and thus hasten our industrialization, has been more than realized. As a matter of fact, we have reached a point where our foreign exchange reserves can now hardly keep pace with the requirements of newly established industries. The grant of the precious privilege of tax exemption must now be narrowed down to very exceptional and meritorious cases.

#### **VI. RE-EXAMINATION OF SPECIAL IMPORT LAW**

Republic Act No. 1394, popularly known as the Special Import Tax, provides so many exceptions from its provisions that, where we expected to collect some \$70 million, we actually took in only a meager amount last year. The extraordinary number of exceptions contained in this act was in fact the principal cause of the heavy decrease in customs collections during the year under review.

I therefore recommend a re-examination of this act with a view to eliminating those self-defeating exceptions.

## **VII. AMENDMENTS TO REPARATIONS ACT**

In the implementation of Republic Act No. 1789, better known as the Reparations Law, we have found that the grace period of 24 months given to reparations beneficiaries before they are required to make an initial payment has made it difficult for the Reparations Commission to comply with its obligation under the law to distribute reparations proceeds among various entities; such as, the rural banks, the Manila Railroad company, the veterans' trust funds, the Land Tenure Administration, etc. Besides preventing the Reparations commission from fulfilling these commitments, the grace period also would give an end-user free use of reparations goods for a period of two years, after which he may return them to the government already deteriorated or depreciated. The government clearly will be the loser in such an eventuality.

It is therefore urgent and necessary that an amendment to the Reparations Law be approved to eliminate the grace period and to require a certain amount of down payment to guarantee good faith on the part of the end-user and protect the interest of the government.

We must also prohibit reparations applicants and end-users from negotiation directly with Japanese suppliers. This practice can facilitate collusion between the two parties to over-price reparations goods, to the prejudice of the Philippine Government. All procurement negotiations for reparations should be conducted directly and only by the Philippine Reparations Mission.

Another amendment I am recommending is to charge a service fee on both government and private reparations transactions, so as to provide adequate funds for the operational expenditures of the Reparations Commission officers and employees from the requirements of the WAPCO law on position classification and rates of pay.

Finally, I recommend that in Section 2, subsection (1) of the Reparations Act, the clause "entities wholly owned by Filipino citizens" be changed to "entities controlled by Filipino citizens." The suggested amendment would put more practical and realistic nationalism into the law rather than adhere to a puritan nationalism which oftentimes is self-defeating.

## **VIII. THE TOBACCO PRICE SUPPORT LAW**

As you all know, Republic Act No. 698 as amended, or the Virginia Leaf Tobacco Act, requires the ACCFA to extend price support to all grades and kinds of Virginia tobacco produced in the country. This has encouraged the production of low grade Virginia tobacco which, however, finds no market among cigarette manufacturers. As a result, stocks of low-grade Virginia tobacco are accumulated, and the net effect is that a sizable amount of invested capital and ACCFA funds is frozen.

If this accumulation of unmarketable tobacco is allowed to continue unchecked, in due time the entire government price support fund intended to assist the Virginia tobacco industry will be tied up in these stocks, thus frustrating the noble purpose of the law. Production of Virginia tobacco industry will be tied up in these stocks, thus frustrating the noble purpose of the law. Production of Virginia tobacco is growing by leaps and bounds, and very soon the industry will require larger amounts from the government for the maintenance of the price support program. Even now, the point of exhaustion of ACCFA funds for the purchase of tobacco has almost been reached.

We must see to it, therefore, that these funds are not dissipated in buying unmarketable tobacco but are used rather for the purchase of high-grade tobacco. We will thus encourage the production of high-grade Virginia tobacco and at the same time discourage the growth of unmarketable low-grade tobacco. I therefore recommend that the tobacco price-support law be amended to exclude low-grade tobacco from its coverage.

## **IX. THE BACKPAY SINKING FUND**

I must bring to the attention of Congress that the backpay sinking fund has an actual deficiency of more than P100 million. This is the result of two factors. First, there was a wrong estimate of the amount needed for backpay when

Act No. 897 was passed by Congress in 1953, and the second factor is the ruling of the Department of Justice in 1954 which reduced the period of redemption from 30 years to 10 years, thereby upsetting the actuarial computation of the sinking fund.

To cover up this deficiency, I therefore propose the appropriation of P21 million a year for 10 years to build up the backpay sinking fund, and the extension for five years of the period which expired on June 30, 1958.

## **X. THE ANTI-GRAFT COURT**

The Administration has launched a relentless drive against graft and corruption in the government. It has done its utmost to identify and expose corruption. But of course the professional cynics and hecklers are always trying to cast doubts on the sincerity of the Administration in this crusade, by insinuating that the Executive, being the chief of all the investigative bodies, can quash a case or exonerate a defendant whenever he wants or convict even the innocent when he so desires, irrespective of the merits of a case. It is also insinuated that members of Congress can influence investigative or fact-finding bodies. The obstructionists further allege that these investigative bodies are political tools of the Administrative designed to protect its protégés and harass its adversaries.

To silence these destructive voices and re-emphasize once more our determination to sweep out graft and corruption in the government, I am recommending the creation of an anti-graft tribunal to constitute a part of the judicial department of the government, independent of the Executive and Congress. It is my hope and challenge that with the creation of this special court, those who possess evidence of graft or corruption in the public service, committed or perpetrated by whomsoever he may be, instead of engaging in loose talks, generalities, and malicious innuendos, will go to this court to discharge this civic responsibilities and do their duty as citizens to cooperate in the maintenance of an honest officialdom and civil service.

## **XI. SCHOOL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

In connection with the desire to improve the quality of public service, may I recommend the expansion of the present School of Public Administration managed by the U.P. into a college where training for high government executive and managerial positions may be given, as well as specialized training for municipal and provincial service. Clerical efficiency can be raised by training in this college. But more important still, this college should emphasize character building and moral education in order to raise a legion of specially trained and efficient men of strong moral fibre to man our public service and administration.

## **XII. FINANCING FOR THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM**

To put an end to the yearly public school crisis, it is advisable that the present method of financing our elementary and secondary schools be re-examined so as to place it on a stable basis. It is my considered view that our public education system should be supported with revenues exclusively dedicated to such a purpose. I am certain that Filipino parents are willing to go to any lengths for the sake of the education of their children. Provided they see that every centavo contributed by them for school expense is invested wisely in this program, they will gladly bear their full share of the burden in raising the revenues needed to maintain in this country the highest standards of education.

The Administration will propose for your consideration a draft bill embodying this recommendation.

## **XIII. LOCAL AUTONOMY**

Our present laws regulating the relations between the national government and the local governments are no longer realistic, nor are they in keeping with the needs of the times. Local governments are not self-supporting units and depend too much upon aids or shares from the national government. It is because of this situation that the initiative for their progress or improvement has to come all the way from the national government. We cannot allow this state of affairs to continue.

Local governments should be given more autonomy and by local autonomy is meant that any increase in their authority should go hand in hand with increased responsibility. In other words, local governments should assume greater responsibility in supporting and financing their local affairs if they wish to exercise greater authority in the management thereof.

To give this problem the attention and care that it deserves, I propose that a commission be created to study sweeping reforms in the administration of provincial and municipal governments and to recommend appropriate measures to carry them out along the lines I have indicated.

#### **XIV. ADDITIONAL DUTIES AND POWERS FOR THE AUDITOR GENERAL**

A number of cases have come to our attention of public officials as well as officers and employees of government owned and controlled corporations entering into business deals, contracts, or transactions involving the use of public funds which were irregular, anomalous unnecessary, excessive, or extravagant. In the purchase or procurement of government supplies and materials, for instance, a number of cases of overpricing have been discovered. We have also learned of purchases of stocks of government supplies and materials far beyond the quantities necessary.

Besides overpricing and overstocking, there are other corrupt practices in government offices and corporations which have caused a considerable drain on public funds. Millions of the people's money have been misspent or lost in this manner. In most cases these acts were discovered long after the damage to the public treasury had been done.

We must act to prevent, or at least to minimize, these corrupt practices. In this direction, it is recommended that the Auditor General be empowered to look into, even before their consummation, contract, deals, transactions, and negotiations involving public funds or property which in his opinion appear to be irregular, anomalous, unnecessary, excessive, or extravagant. He should also be given the power to take all necessary measures to prevent the execution or continuance of such contracts, transactions, or deals. Furthermore, he shall be charged with the duty of bringing them to the attention of the President.

In this connection, it has been observed that the performance of the General Auditing Office leaves plenty of room for improvement in the discharge of its duties and functions relative to anomalous or excessive expenditures of public funds or property, as imposed upon that office by Section 2, Article XI of the Constitution. It is said that this has been due to deficiency of personnel. If so, let the General Auditing Office be provided with the necessary personnel to carry out the new duties and preventive powers hereby recommended.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Gentlemen of the Congress, let me say in conclusion, that the faith of this nation is deep and abiding; the spirit of this nation is mighty; the determination of this nation is invincible. On this rock of faith, and with this spirit and this determination, let us build the House of the Nation so that it may be said: "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, but it did not fall because it was founded on rock."

**Carlos P. Garcia, Third State of the Nation Address, January 25, 1960**

**Message  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
To the Congress  
On the State of the Nation**

[Delivered on January 25, 1960]

Mr. Senate President, Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress:

In the light of what has been accomplished since I last had the honor to address you, it is with an uplifted spirit that today I call for further determined and courageous action toward the great national goals.

During the year 1959 we touched a few peaks in progress' highway. We piled up bigger surpluses in rice and corn, thus firming up our success in the campaign for self-sufficiency in food. We have achieved favorable balance of trade for the first time in postwar years which is a definitive index of our economic growth. The nation was thrilled by the discovery of oil in Cebu which, together with steel, will give revolutionary impetus to our agro-industrial economy. Oil will soon be a mighty pillar of our economy. We launched the first ship built by Filipino naval architects and engineers which established once and for all our capacity in this field. This is significant and inspiring when we consider that we are a country of 7,000 islands. We have successfully conducted a peaceful, free and honest election in which the Filipino people reiterated confidence in the present Nacionalista administration. It was an untrammelled expression of the popular will and the overall result was the strengthening of the fabric of Philippine democracy. We have just laid the cornerstone of a Nuclear Center made possible by the United States granting us an Atomic Reactor. We have thus been ushered into the threshold of a spectacular industrial revolution with the use of atomic energy.

All of these achievements in the past year, to mention only the most outstanding, are at the same time pledges at a bigger tomorrow.

**THE "FILIPINO FIRST" POLICY**

The "Filipino First" policy of this administration received a resounding popular indorsement in the last election. Politically we became independent since 1946, but economically we are still semi-colonial. This is especially true in our foreign trade. This policy is therefore designed to regain economic independence. It is a national effort to the end that Filipinos obtain major and dominant participation in their own national economy. This we will achieve with malice towards none and with fairness to all. We will accomplish this with full understanding of our international obligations towards our friends of the Free World. We will carry this out within the framework of our special relations with the United States to whose citizens we granted until 1974, by Constitutional provision, equal rights as Filipinos in the exploitation of our natural resources and public utilities, and to whom we also granted trading parity rights under the Laurel-Langley Agreement. Under this policy we will welcome friendly and understanding foreign capital willing to collaborate with us in the exploitation of our vast natural resources preferably on joint venture basis.

It is my hope that legislations under this orientation will be enacted this year.

**ECONOMIC PROGRESS**

In vital matters related to the national economy, at the start of last year, we were facing serious difficulties. The international reserve stood at a dangerously low level and the financial position of the government was weak. So

when I came before Congress to speak on the state of the nation, I proposed bold and decisive moves to stabilize the economy.

Congress in a historic special session patriotically responded by exacting a stabilization program the principal feature of which is the imposition of a margin fee on the sale of foreign exchange. In the middle of July a 25 per cent margin was put into effect.

It speaks highly of the courageous statesmanship of this Congress that in spite of a stormy opposition accompanied by gloomy predictions of the prophets of doom, it passed the measure even in an election year.

Now after barely five months of implementation thereof we find that we were able not only to halt the country's deteriorating balance of payments, but also to reverse it for the first time in postwar years from minus to plus. The 25 per cent margin on foreign exchange sales combined with the other disinflationary fiscal and credit restraint measures such as new tax laws, the cutback in bond financing, and such monetary instruments as the raising of reserve requirements, the raising of rediscount rates, selective rediscounting, the imposition of portfolio ceilings, and the continued effectivity of Central Bank Circular No. 79, have produced general salutary effects upon our national economy. Among these are: (1) the strengthening of the peso, (2) the strengthening of our international reserve to the tune of \$162.9 million, (3) the consolidation of the government's financial position, (4) the cutting down of excessive money supply, (5) the keeping down of excess bank reserves and credit, and (6), worthy of repeated mention, the attainment for the first time in postwar history of a favorable balance of trade and balance of payments to the tune of \$46.4 million. Moreover, we paid in 1959, \$84 million of our foreign loans and obligations.

What consequences followed the overall strengthening of our national economy resulting from these stabilization measures? They are visible and tangible. First and foremost, we have signaled away forced devaluation which would have been inescapable under a runaway inflation. By achieving this, we saved the masses of our people- by preventing the ruination of their wages and salaries, their savings, pensions and insurance, and other social security benefits. Secondly, the Republic gained in credit and confidence abroad and this is evidenced by many offers to us of credit lines and loans by governments and great banking and financial institutions all over the world. Thirdly, production on all fronts—manufacturing, mining and agriculture—has pushed on to new heights. Fourthly, we have succeeded to establish a climate for bigger investment of domestic and friendly foreign capital and know-how needed to utilize and exploit our national resources, especially the oil mines and the laterite mines.

Incidentally, there are loose talks of repealing the dollar margin law on the alleged ground that prices have zoomed up owing to it. We found, however, that, in general, prices have risen slower than costs. This indicated that business profit margins absorbed a sizeable share of the tax burden. The increase in prices for prime commodities consumed by the masses was not due to the dollar margin law, but to certain tax laws, the higher tariff rates on United States goods, and principally the general upward trend of production costs and prices at the sources of these imported commodities. The latter is beyond our control.

On the other hand, while retail prices for domestically produced commodities increased by 5.1 per cent from June to November, they still stood below their levels the previous year, owing largely to increased output in agriculture and the domestic industries.

Be that as it may, may I state as emphatically as I can that, if the stabilization measures Congress enacted last year did not halt the increasing momentum of last year's inflation, the ravages of the then impending run-away inflation would have exacted from us not 25 per cent, not even 100 per cent but perhaps from 500 to 1000 per cent rise in prices. That would have been a national catastrophe.

### **Rural Development**

Greater efforts should be made to diffuse the benefits and balance the economic development among the rural regions of the country. During the past year, I consistently advocated the dispersal of industries to the provinces to halt the dangerous tendency of overcrowded population in cities and to stop inflation of monetary circulation in Manila and suburbs while there was scarcity of money in the provinces.



The success of our program of self-sufficiency may be gauged by the increasing surpluses of rice and corn. Such surpluses have not only introduced price and marketing problems but also necessitate the reorientation of our production policies along the following lines: (1) redirection of our research activities towards high-yielding varieties suitable to the needs of foreign markets; (2) further studies in the development of new industrial uses of agricultural surpluses and raw materials; (3) improvement in our management practices so as to increase the production per hectare and thereby reduce the cost per unit of output; and (4) attunement of production to market demands so as to avoid undisposable surpluses and achieve steady and fair income for farmers. For instance, some Virginia tobacco lands in the Ilocos provinces, in the face of a soaring tobacco surplus, may be shifted to cotton production needed by our expanding textile mills.

We must now take bold and definite steps to improve the mechanism for internal marketing and distribution and develop a sound credit structure that will sustain the growth of agriculture and the agricultural industries. In the field of crop loans for small farmers underwritten by the ACCFA and the Development Bank of the Philippines to the tune of P50 million, there is need for more aggressiveness and liberality in credit mechanism to shake off alien control. The Rural Banks now numbering 126 should be strengthened by further government aid in capitalization so that they can participate more effectively in the campaign to regain Philippine control in rural areas.

Our experience during the last few years indicates the utmost desirability of a practical shift from a public marketing system to a more active role on the part of private enterprise. In the case of rice and corn marketing, it is both urgent and propitious that our Government banks and the rural banks back up a structure of long-term credit assistance to private warehouses and millers.

During the year under review, we also made steady progress in land reforms and public land distribution. The NARRA resettled over 1,000 settler-families, mostly in the provinces of Bukidnon, Lanao, Cotabato, Palawan and Isabela. The Bureau of Lands continued to extend the Survey and subdivision of disposable public agricultural lands, and distributed during the year over 23,000 land patents.

While farmers should be extended all possible assistance as far as credits and marketing facilities are concerned, I believe, that in the long run, the continued subsidy and price support of certain products will do more harm than good to public welfare. There is clear indication that a realistic reexamination of our laws on price support be undertaken before it is too late.

I am proud to inform Congress that in the community development program under the PACD and with ICA assistance, we rose to unprecedented heights of achievement. At the death of President Magsaysay we had 2,110 community development projects in 1,185 barrios. Now we have 21,480 projects in 5,425 barrios of which 9,293 were undertaken in 1959. These community development projects range from feeder roads to community assembly houses, poultry, artesian wells, barrio waterworks, communal irrigation, and others.

This phase of social service fully deserves the generous support of Congress which I hereby request.

### **Development of Foreign Markets**

I wish to call attention again to the matter of developing new foreign markets for our products. I have directed the resumption and conclusion of trade agreements with Germany, Japan, and other countries. A diversified market will enable us to sell our products at the best possible price and thus maximize our income. As United States duties become increasingly heavy on Philippine goods under the Laurel-Langley Agreement, the problem of diversification becomes more marked.

A significant development in this regard is the fact that half of our trade is now conducted with countries other than the United States, particularly with Western Europe and our Asian neighbors, whereas ten years ago, three-fourths of our trade was exclusively with America.

We should explore the possibility of price adjustments on our products to make them more competitive with similar products of other countries. The method open to us in our campaign for higher export receipts are indeed many and

varied, among which are the institution of quality control, the encouragement of more intensive processing, a more intensive development of by-product industries in order to utilize what is now waste, and stepped-up specialized exploration to find more industrial uses of our sugar, abaca, coconut, tobacco, etc.

### **The Problem of Barter**

Last year I recommended the repeal of Republic Act No.1410 with a view to plugging the loopholes provided through barter. While this law was repealed, another law, Republic Act No. 2262, was approved, designed to provide incentives directly to producers. This was done, I understand, in realistic barter. Undeniably, there are also a few marginal industries on which the employment of a large number of our people actually depend and for which barter alone offers better chances of survival.

In this connection I beg to announce that the rice and corn surpluses of 1959 are bigger than the 1958 surpluses, an eloquent proof of the success of our program for self-sufficiency in food. We shall also have an estimated surplus of about 20 million kilos of Virginia tobacco this year. But all these surpluses cannot be profitably sold for dollars abroad. The NARIC has failed, for lack of adequate financing, in the price support program for rice and corn. It is increasingly becoming difficult for the Central Bank to finance the tobacco price support under the present law. In rice and corn, prices have gone down lower than production cost. It has therefore become imperative that we decisively act to find the solution to these problems. Meantime barter for these surpluses seems the only way to provide a. incentive directly to producers.

### **THE FISCAL SITUATION**

The cold fact of our fiscal situation has been and continues to be that the country's revenue structure is no longer capable of supporting the irreducible requirements of a national program of accelerated social and economic development.

The authorized expenditures from the General Fund, including P99.4 million of supplementary appropriations approved last year, now total P1, 487.8 million.

Since the General Fund income estimates amount to P900.5 million only, we have been constrained to continue the policy of stringency in government expenditures. The expenditures of appropriations aggregating P565.2 million had to be stopped and forced savings of P22.1 million had to be imposed on all departments, bureaus, and offices of the Executive Branch. Total obligations from all funds combined for 1960 have been reduced by P147.3 million.

In our effort to pursue our fiscal stabilization program and to minimize the inflationary pressures generated by large-scale public spending of the proceeds of bond issues, we have effected cutbacks in public works and economic development projects. We have reduced the bond funds for these purposes from P126.2 million to only P70.3 million.

Our revenues have increased consistently from year to year, from P530.8 million in 1953 to P789.4 million in 1959. Yet these increases have not been sufficient to cover the rise in government expenditures required by an expanding economy and a rapidly growing population. Consequently, we have to face the problem of balancing the budget every year by careful programming and retrenchment measures on public expenditures.

The answer to this mounting budgetary problem is, of course, increased revenues. At the present juncture it is not necessary to increase the taxes. It is attainable through an improvement in the efficiency of our tax collection machinery, a revamp of the existing tax system and revenue structure, and a coordinated effort on the part of both the Legislative and the Executive branches in formulating and implementing an equitable tax system. Toward this end, my recommendation for the establishment of a Joint Legislative-Executive Tax Commission was approved by the Congress. I urge you to consider carefully the recommendations which this Tax Commission will submit within ten days from today.

## **EDUCATION AND SCIENCE**

We have continued to extend the benefits of education to an increasing number of children. Last year we were able to admit 119,000 new pupils by opening 3,000 additional classes.

However, because of budgetary limitations, the Government has had to fall back upon private institutions to supplement its educational efforts. To maintain the highest standards possible in these schools, an increase in the supervisory force would be desirable.

The teaching of science and mathematics as well as the improvement of the vocational curricula received greater impetus during the year. Radio broadcasts through a donation of 500 transistor radios from the Australian Government were started this year. The production of foodstuffs, as well as the promotion of home industries, has been pushed with greater vigor.

The creation of the National Science Development Board has given fresh impetus to the promotion of science and technology. Its research activities are geared to economic development and national health. For the first time all the research projects for the control of the dreaded kadang-kadang of coconuts have been consolidated in a Research Committee under the Board.

As I mentioned in the beginning of this message, the cornerstone of an atomic research center has just been laid. A reactor has been donated by the United States Atomic Energy Commission. With the establishment of this center, we will engage in the production of radioisotopes for the use of agriculture, industry, and medicine. This is a landmark in our scientific progress, as it opens up for our youth the vast field of nuclear science and ultimately harnesses the mightiest industrial power known to man to cancel human poverty from our land. I submit that no project more deserving of full support by Congress than the nuclear center.

## **SECURITY AND WELFARE**

### **National Defense**

Aside from pursuing its primary mission, the Department of National Defense has supplemented the rural development program of the Administration. In this connection, I wish to inform you that plans for the implementation of the Armed Forces commission under the law to engage in public construction, food production, land resettlement, and rural development in addition to its inherent duties have been completed. In fact, several projects are already being actually undertaken.

Our Armed Forces, I am proud to say, has done well in the maintenance of peace and order and the enforcement of the defense structure. We have every reason to be proud of the laws. It was the principal arm of the Commission on Elections that conducted in 1959 free, peaceful, and honest national elections. Its civilian chiefs and its general staff have accomplished much in the way of improving the count of its officers and men. They will continue to be an invaluable asset to the life of the nation.

### **Public Works**

Under the retrenchment policy, the Government has confined itself to the construction and improvement of only essential public improvements which are supportive and promotive of agro-industrial development. Nevertheless, during the calendar year 1959 the Government undertook the construction of irrigation and water supply systems, flood control and shore protection works, airfields and airports, ports and harbors, and roads and bridges for which we invested One Hundred Sixty-Nine million pesos (P169 million). Worthy of note is the completion of national and communal irrigation systems and the installation of irrigation pumps, all of which can now irrigate about 45,000 additional hectares of agricultural land. The year 1959 also saw the virtual completion of the construction of 768 kilometers of development highways in Mindanao.

I invite the attention of Congress to the emerging need of legislation directed towards the multi-phase utilization and exploitation of the abundant water resources of the country not only for power, but also for water supply, flood control and irrigation. In this way we can maximize the benefits for lowest cost.

In the case of other public works financed with dollar loans being extended both by the U.S. Export-Import Bank and the Development Loan Fund for transportation projects—air, land, and water—committed under the Eisenhower-Garcia communique on the occasion of my last state visit to the United States, legislative measures are necessary to make available sufficient peso support for projects already submitted to, or approved by, these lending institutions.

## **Health**

The health of the nation has been maintained at a satisfactory level. The birth rate has shown a considerable increase whereas the death rate has decreased. Mortality rates from the ten leading causes of death have been reduced. All of these facts indicate an improvement in the cleanliness and sanitation of our communities.

The policy of improving the rural health centers is being pursued without letup. To supplement the services which have been made available to the rural areas, the help of private persons and firms has been enlisted. Efforts are being exerted to expand hospital services in the rural areas.

## **Labor**

The problem of unemployment continues to be a major national concern. I am still of the firm belief that the ideal solution to this problem is the intensification of our industrial development program to multiply job opportunities. For instance, the organization of more than 4,000 industrial and commercial firms in 1959 has absorbed a sizeable portion of the unemployed. It is also necessary for labor to acquire the modern technology so much needed in modern industry. It is gratifying to know that in Asia our manpower has the better technological training with the exception of Japan, but there is much room for improvement demanded by our expanding agro-industrial economy. The establishment this year in the University of the Philippines of an Asian Educational Labor Center for the training of labor leaders in Free Asia is a blessing to our economy.

The social security coverage for the workers continues to expand under the Social Security System for the private sector and under the Government Service Insurance System for the government sector. Three and a half million Filipinos are now enjoying the protection and benefits of our social security systems.

These measures to improve the security of the working-man are eloquent proofs of our administration's deep concern with the lot of the workers. But it is my considered view that Congress should do more for them. It should undertake a serious study of how to facilitate laborers to participate as shareholders in the firm where they work. This system will give the workers a sense of belonging and a deeper sense of race between rise in production cost and rise in prices and thus enable our export products to compete in the world market. I commend this suggestion to your serious consideration for the sake of the millions of our less fortunate brothers who furnish the sinews of industry.

## **Civil Service**

The Civil Service Act enacted during the last session of Congress has not been fully implemented by the promulgation of necessary rules and regulations. The law has some provisions which are so vague and uncertain that they give rise to conflicting interpretations.

For instance, there was a question with respect to the power of the president to declare positions in the civil service as policy determining, primarily confidential, and highly technical. This necessitated an opinion from the Secretary of Justice, who ruled that such power could not be wrested from the President and given to any other party. The implementation of the law itself has had to be deferred because of practical considerations. For instance, the creation

of a Civil Service Appeal Court of three members to dispose of some 300 appealed cases a year with a salary of P10,000 each a year is considered premature. It is clear in the light of these facts that Congress should take the opportunity of restudying the Civil Service Act during the present regular session.

## **TOURISM**

The jet age has come and the influx of tourists in our country is bound to come if we can provide for them modern tourist facilities. It is therefore urgent that we develop as fast as possible the tourist industry which bids fair to become an important source of dollar income as it did in many countries. The need for promotional and publicity services abroad, the improvement of hotel and transportation services, the modernization of our airports for jet planes, and the preservation and development of our numerous tourist attraction spots—all these require a sizeable outlay which I ask Congress to provide. This investment will surely give us returns a thousand fold.

During the World Tourist Conference I announced my plan to proclaim 1961 a “See the Philippines—Visit the Orient Year” as an invitation to the world traveling public to visit our country and see the rest of the Far East. This is also the year we will celebrate the Jose Rizal Centennial anniversary for which Congress appropriated P10 million. Thailand has since responded to our suggestion to join us in a coordinated move to attract visitors to the Orient while other countries have indicated their readiness to take simultaneous action.

## **GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS**

The government corporations made progress in 1959 in expanding the country’s essential services and industries. In line with our decision to proceed immediately with the establishment of an integrated steel plant in Iligan, initial groundwork of grading and drainage has been undertaken by the NASSCO.

The establishment of an integrated steel mill will supply the missing link in our industrial development. Private enterprise should undertake this project in joint venture with the government. It is also necessary that sufficient leeway be allowed for the negotiation of necessary credit for the project so that we may tap resources in the United States and other countries.

The early development and exploitation of the Surigao laterite mineral reserves, estimated to be worth more than P270 billion, should be given first priority of Congress in 1960. The Act we approved for the development of these tremendous natural resources did not produce the desired result. I therefore urge a reexamination of our plan.

In marine transportation the NASSCO built and launched for the first time a 1600-ton vessel. Of greater significance is the acquisition of 12 ocean-going vessels of about ten thousand tonnage, to step up the carrying capacity of Philippine flag vessels from 3 to 7 per cent. We are acquiring through the Reparations Commission 15 other ships of about the same tonnage.

The expansion of our railway lines to Cagayan and Sor-sogon has been started by the conduct of preparatory bidding by the Manila Railroad Company. Last June the Baliuag-Gapan section of the Cabanatuan line was completed.

We have made equally satisfactory progress in electric power development. Two units of the Binga project have been completed and the other two units will be installed by March this year. The completion of two units at the Maria Cristina power system will be undertaken with the steel project.

Government corporations were organized to pioneer in new fields of economic and business activities where private capital or enterprise was shy. There is a consensus of opinion that most of these corporations are over-staffed and are thus saddled with over-sized overhead budgets. It is my considered opinion and I recommend that where the activities of these government corporations can be taken over by private enterprise, and whenever their pioneering objectives have been basically accomplished, such corporations should be sold and transferred as soon as possible to private enterprise under reasonable terms and conditions, except those performing mainly social or governmental functions many of which can be converted into regular government offices or agencies.

## **FOREIGN RELATIONS**

Our accomplishments in the field of foreign relations in 1959 have raised the prestige of the Philippine Republic before the eyes of the world. More and more, our voice is heard with greater respect in international councils. We have evolved a foreign policy whose cornerstones are the upholding of national honor and dignity and the promotion of a world peace with justice and honor and freedom for all. We are of the Free World, and as such we desire closer ties with all its members, particularly with the leader thereof and our neighbors in Asia.

In pursuit of this policy I made a State visit to the Republic of Vietnam during 1959 and cemented with that nation a most cordial relation. I expect to make a similar visit this year to Malaya.

In the negotiations for the revision of the Military Bases Agreement with the United States, the two governments in a common effort to enhance further their long-established friendship reached the following points of accord:

1. Reduction of the life of the bases lease from 99 to 25 years;
2. Considerable delimitation of bases areas, relinquishment by the United States of approximately 118,000 hectares of land, and actual transfer of the Olongapo Community to the Philippine Government;
3. Previous consultation with the Philippine Government on the military operational use of the bases for purposes other than the mutual defense of both countries;
4. Previous consultation with the Philippine Government before I the United States could put up missile launching sites in the Philippines; and
5. Elevation to treaty commitment of United States responsibility to repel instantly attack on any portion of the Philippine territory.

We are determined to pursue this course of action until all irritants in Philippine-American relations shall have been removed.

Activation of the Philippine Omnibus Claims resulted in the actual payment to the Philippines of \$23 million for gold devaluation, favorable endorsement by the State Department of \$73 million for additional war damage payments, and adjustments in our obligations under the Romulo-Snyder Agreement. Plans are being worked out and steps have been taken for the reexamination of the claims rejected by the United States.

We have also reached agreement with Taipeh on the final liquidation of the ten-year-old Chinese deportee problem.

We are exploring the possibilities of expanded trade with Australia, Germany, Israel, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Korea, Spain, Taipeh, and Vietnam.

In the United Nations we have played an active role for the attainment of world peace completely free from the nightmare of a nuclear war. We have co-sponsored the resolution for the continuance of the 10-Power Disarmament Committee and the reference thereto of new disarmament proposals by Soviet Russia and the Western Powers.

We have concluded a Treaty of Friendship with Vietnam. We have also laid the foundation jointly with the Malaya Government for the formation of a South East Asia Association of States for mutual assistance.

We propose to continue with our reoriented foreign policies and; to this end, I urge approval of the measures calculated to improve and strengthen our foreign service corps.

## **THE PROBLEM OF GRAFT AND CORRUPTION**

In my last message to the Congress I appealed for the enactment of appropriate measures to strengthen further the unrelenting drive against graft and corruption. Congressional decisive action is eagerly being awaited by our people. According to the latest figures available, we investigated during the anti-graft campaign period 12,233 cases of various corruption in office of which roughly 50 per cent were decided and 4,024 respondents were found guilty. In spite of this creditable record of achievements, there still remains a tremendous amount of work to be done.

Let me point out a few outstanding accomplishments of the PFFC assigned to Customs. It busted the so-called hot car racket, it busted the Customs brokerage racket and the Customs protection racket. It is well on the way of busting the dollar smuggling racket and the overshipment racket. Among recent cases of corruption brought out, investigated, and/or prosecuted mainly by the PCAPE are the salting away of dollars abroad, ACCFA upgrading of tobacco, anomalies in the NAMARCO, Public Service Commission, Motor Vehicles Office, traffic courts, BIR, and others.

The overall situation is such that no less than a total effort is necessary to reduce to the minimum this social cancer.

## **OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

In addition to the foregoing recommendations embodied in the early parts of this message, I feel duty-bound to submit others bearing on important state matters, viz:

### **I. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

Permit me gentlemen of congress, to reiterate my previous recommendations on the amendments to our constitution. More than ever I am convinced of the urgency and imperativeness of these constitutional reforms in response to the requirements of a growing Philippine democracy. I therefore recommend strongly prompt adoption of the following amendments:

- 1) The synchronization of national and local elections every four years. Indeed we have to halt this continuous procession of expensive election campaigns which detract from, rather than add to, the stability of our democratic institutions.
- 2) The election of senators on the basis of specific senatorial districts. Let the conservative and stabilizing role of the Senate in our bicameral system be maintained by extending the terms of its members to eight years, one half, of whom shall be elected, every quadrennial election.
- 3.) The creation of a Presidential Electoral Tribunal, to be a constitutional body completely independent from the Executive and the Legislative branches of our government, to hear and decide protect that may arise as a result of presidential elections.
- 4) The 30-day period within which time the President vetoes or approves a certain bill should be counted from the date of the bill's submittal to the President and not from the date marking the adjournment of Congress;
- 5) In the event the annual appropriation act for an ensuing year is not approved, the general appropriation act for the current fiscal year should be deemed continued in force until such time as the new fiscal year's budget is passed; and
- 6) Finally, the provision on the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus may be reexamined to attune it more to the spirit of democracy.

### **II. REPARATIONS**

My request made a year ago for the amendment of the Reparations Law is hereby reiterated along the following lines:

1) To eliminate the grace period of 24 months granted reparations beneficiaries before payment. On the contrary, a down payment or performance bond should be required of reparations beneficiaries;

2) To prohibit reparations applicants and end-users from negotiating directly with Japanese suppliers, and thereby prevent overpricing through collusion. Procurement negotiations for reparations should be conducted directly and only by the Philippine Reparations Mission.

3) To charge a service fee equally on government and private reparations transactions, so as to provide sufficient funds for operational expenditures of the Reparations Commission;

be counted from the date of the bill's submittal to the President and not from the date marking the adjournment of Congress;

4) To amend in Section 2, Subsection (a), of the Reparations Act the clause "entities wholly owned by Filipino citizens" to read "entities controlled by Filipino citizens."

5) To clothe the legal officer of the Reparations Mission with specific powers and responsibility, he being the officer of the Philippine Government who may sue and be sued in court in reparations cases, and not the chief of the Reparations Mission.

### **III. FINANCING OF OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM**

I reiterate my recommendation to the Congress for the reexamination of the preset method of financing our elementary and secondary schools with a view to placing them on a stable basis. Action on this recommendation is imperative if we are to comply with the constitutional mandate to provide at least free primary instruction to all children of school age.

### **IV. SWEEPSTAKES**

We should expand the scope of the activities of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office so that its proceeds could be utilized to provide rural areas with artesian wells, barrio waterworks, public toilets, and other sanitary and health facilities.

### **V. CONSERVATION OF FOREST AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES**

A rigid enforcement of our forest conservation laws is a crying need of the country if we want to stop the insane and vandalistic despoliation of our forest resources. An automatic reforestation system should be instituted by requiring forest concessionaire to plant five trees for every tree they cut. It is therefore recommended that any violation of the forest conservation laws committed by concessionaires or their agents should be made a cause for the revocation or suspension of their license, permit, or concession. Likewise, the use of forest clearings other than for reforestation should be cause for such suspension or revocation.

Related to our forest conservation concern is the proper exploitation and conservation of our fishing and other marine resources. These have been mercilessly subjected to dynamite devastation. Besides encouraging fish culture in our swamp lands, we should encourage deep-sea fishing.

I hereby inform Congress that we received a commitment of a \$3 million aid from the technical assistance program of the United Nations for the development of the dairy industry in this country. Let us take full advantage of this opportunity by providing peso support financing not only for dairy but also for cattle raising. Such industries are appropriate for rural areas which, combined with further development of our home and cottage industries, will lift up the living conditions of the masses in the rural areas. I request support for these industries, part of which may be taken from the proceeds of reparations for the sake of 70 per cent of our population living in rural areas.



## **VI. CAPITAL GAINS TAX ABOLITION**

The capital gains tax has worked as a deterrent to expansion of investment. At this time when we need every peso available to be invested in our economic development program, this tax has become anachronistic. I therefore recommend its abolition.

## **VII. RECLAMATION AND TRANSPORTATION**

I urge immediate enactment of the bill now pending in the Senate on reformation projects for the Manila port. The port of Manila, which is the port of entry and exit of about 75 per cent of our imports and exports, must have modern port facilities to make it the best in the Far East.

In this connection may I inform Congress that air transportation need be developed with a capacity to connect our 7,000 islands. Our international airports must rise to the needs of the jet age. We must encourage free competition among responsible air transportation companies. Our asphalt roads should be gradually converted into concrete roads. In the long run it is more economic that way. With the existence now of cement factories we should be able to do this at minimum cost.

## **VIII. ON GRAFT AND CORRUPTION**

I recommend that a Graft-busting Commission be created empowered to make investigation, at its own initiative or by superior order, of all cases of graft and corruption in government offices and to prosecute such cases directly before competent court. It should be clothed with broad preventive powers to forestall the commission of graft and corruption and should be endowed with sufficient personnel to watch government corporations, banks, financial institutions, tax collecting offices and agencies, offices dispensing privileges, franchises, permits, licenses, quota allocations and the like; and with such other offices as may be determined by the Commission.

Nothing will satisfy our people less than a total war against corruption. I have full faith that Congress will rise equal to the task demanded by the situation.

## **IX. DECONTROL AND TARIFF REVISION**

I am glad to announce that the relative success of our stabilization measures has made it possible for us now to start planning carefully a move for gradual decontrol as envisioned in Republic Act No, 2609, more popularly known as the Dollar Margin Law. We should never lose sight of the fact that some of these economic control laws or regulations are yet vital to our development efforts. For instance, our new infant industries still need a protective climate against foreign competition. A reckless, immediate, and total decontrol as advocated by some quarters will spell the complete annihilation of our industrialization program. In many instances, however, some of these controls may, in the course of a few years, be lifted if accompanied with the necessary tariff law revision. In the matter of controls on credit facilities, it is clearly indicated that a gradual liberalization of the same on a strictly selective basis may now be effected. For instance, the rate of interest on agricultural development loans should be fewer than commercial loans.

It is therefore recommended that a bicameral special congressional committee be created to undertake a comprehensive study on integrated gradual decontrol program with the assistance and cooperation of the Central Bank, Tariff, Customs and Budget Commissions, and also with the participation of the Chambers of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture.

## **CONCLUSION**

Gentlemen, in the past we achieved success not alone by the creative endeavor of the nation but also by the help of Divine Providence. Now we have set new goals for our people, but again, we cannot succeed alone. So we shall continue to seek and rely on the guiding hand of Him who holds the destiny of men and nations in his hand. On His

mercy and His strength we rely. And after fulfillment of our aspirations, we like Moses after the deliverance of his people from Egypt, shall sing in the fullness of joy:

“Dux fuisti in misericordia tua populo quem redemisti; et portasti eum in fortitudine tua, ad habitaculum sanctum tuum.” (Exodus, 15-13). ”In thy mercy thou hast been a leader to the people which thou hast redeemed; and in thy strength thou hast carried them to thy holy habitation.”

I thank you.

**State of the Nation Message of President Carlos P. Garcia to the Fourth Congress of the Philippines, Third Session**

**PRESIDENT CARLOS P. GARCIA'S STATE-OF-THE-NATION MESSAGE TO THE FOURTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES, THIRD SESSION**

MR. SENATE PRESIDENT, MR. SPEAKER, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS:

IN THE LIGHT of what has been accomplished since I last had the honor to address you, it is with an uplifted spirit that today I call for further determined and courageous action toward the great national goals.

During the year 1959 we touched a few peaks in progress' highway. We piled up bigger surpluses in rice and corn, thus firming up our success in the campaign for self-sufficiency in food. We have achieved favorable balance of trade for the first time in postwar years which is a definitive by the discovery of oil in Cebu which, together with steel, index of our economic growth. The nation was thrilled will give revolutionary impetus to our agro-industrial economy. Oil will soon be a mighty pillar of our economy. We launched the first ship built by Filipino naval architects and engineers which established once and for all our capacity in this field. This is significant and inspiring when we consider that we are a country of 7,000 islands. We have successfully conducted a peaceful, free and honest election in which the Filipino people reiterated confidence in the present Nacionalista administration. It was an untrammelled expression of the popular will and the overall result was the strengthening of the fabric of Philippine democracy. We have just laid the cornerstone of a Nuclear Center made possible by the United States granting us an Atomic Reactor. We have thus been ushered into the threshold of a spectacular industrial revolution with the use of atomic energy.

All of these achievements in the past year, to mention only the most outstanding, are at the same time pledges of a bigger tomorrow.

**THE "FILIPINO FIRST" POLICY**

The "Filipino First" policy of this administration received a resounding popular endorsement in the last election. Politically we became independent since 1946, but economically we are still semi-colonial. This is specially true in our foreign trade. This policy is therefore designed to regain economic independence. It is a national effort to the end that Filipinos obtain major and dominant participation in their own national economy. This we will achieve with malice towards none and with fairness to all. We will accomplish this with full understanding of our international obligations towards our friends of the Free World. We will carry this out within the framework of our special relations with the United States to whose citizens we granted until 1974, by Constitutional provision, equal rights as Filipinos in the exploitation of our natural resources and public utilities, and to whom we also granted trading parity rights under the Laurel-Langley Agreement. Under this policy we will welcome friendly and understanding foreign capital willing to collaborate with us in the exploitation of our vast natural resources preferably on joint venture basis.

*It is my hope that legislations under this orientation will be enacted this year.*

**ECONOMIC PROGRESS**

In vital matters related to the national economy, at the start of last year, we were facing serious difficulties. The international reserve stood at a dangerously low level and the financial position of the government was weak. So when I came before Congress to speak on the state of the nation, I proposed bold and decisive moves to stabilize the economy.

Congress in a historic special session patriotically responded by enacting a stabilization program the principal feature of which is the imposition of a margin fee on the sale of foreign exchange. In the middle of July a 25 per cent margin was put into effect.

It speaks highly of the courageous statesmanship of this Congress that in spite of a stormy opposition accompanied by gloomy predictions of the prophets of doom, it passed the measure even in an election year.

Now after barely five months of implementation thereof we find that we were able not only to halt the country's deteriorating balance of payments, but also to reverse it for the first time in postwar years from minus to plus. The 25 per cent margin on foreign exchange sales combined with the other disinflationary fiscal and credit restraint measures such as new tax laws, the cutback in bond financing, and such monetary instruments as the raising of reserve requirements, the raising of rediscount rates, selective rediscounting, the imposition of portfolio ceilings, and the continued effectivity of Central Bank Circular No. 79, have produced general salutary effects upon our national economy. Among these are: (1) the strengthening of the peso, (2) the strengthening of our international reserve to the tune of \$162.9 million, (3) the consolidation of the government's financial position, (4) the cutting down of excessive money supply, (5) the keeping down of excess bank reserves and credit, and (6), worthy of repeated mention, the attainment for the first time in postwar history of a favorable balance of trade and balance of payments to the tune of \$46.4 million. Moreover, we paid in 1959, \$84 million of our foreign loans and obligations.

What consequences followed the overall strengthening of our national economy resulting from these stabilization measures? They are visible and tangible. First and foremost, we have signaled away forced devaluation which would have been inescapable under a run-away inflation. By achieving this, we saved the masses of our people by preventing the ruination of their wages and salaries, their savings, pensions and insurance, and other social security benefits. Secondly, the Republic gained in credit and confidence abroad and this is evidenced by many offers to us of credit lines and loans by governments and great banking and financial institutions all over the world. Thirdly, production on all fronts—manufacturing, mining and agriculture—has pushed on to new heights. Fourthly, we have succeeded to establish a climate for bigger investment of domestic and friendly foreign capital and know-how needed to utilize and exploit our national resources, especially the oil mines and the laterite mines.

Incidentally, there are loose talks of repealing the dollar margin law on the alleged ground that prices have zoomed up owing to it. We found, however, that, in general, prices, have risen slower than costs. This indicated that business profit margins absorbed a sizeable share of the tax burden. The increase in prices for prime commodities consumed by the masses was not due to the dollar margin law, but to certain tax laws, the higher tariff rates on United States goods, and principally the general upward trend of production costs and prices at the sources of these imported commodities. The latter is beyond our control.

On the other hand, while retail prices for domestically produced commodities increased by 5.1 per cent from June to November, they still stood below their levels the previous year, owing largely to increased output in agriculture and the domestic industries.

***Be that as it may, may I state as emphatically as I can that, if the stabilization measures Congress enacted last year did not halt the increasing momentum of last year's inflation, the ravages of the then impending run-away inflation would have exacted from, us not 25 per cent, not even 100 per cent but perhaps from 500 to 1000 per cent rise in prices. That would have been a ' national catastrophe.***

### ***Rural Development***

Greater efforts should be made to diffuse the benefits and balance the economic development among the rural regions of the country. During the past year, I consistently advocated the dispersal of industries to the provinces to halt the dangerous tendency of overcrowded population in cities and to stop inflation of monetary circulation in Manila and suburbs while there was scarcity of money in the provinces.

The success of our program of self-sufficiency may be gauged by the increasing surpluses of rice and corn. Such surpluses have not only introduced price and marketing problems but also necessitate the reorientation of our production policies along the following lines: (1) redirection of our research activities towards high-yielding varieties suitable to the needs of foreign markets; (2) further studies in the development of new industrial uses of agricultural surpluses and raw materials; (3) improvement in our management practices so as to increase the production per hectare and thereby reduce the cost per unit of output; and (4) attunement of production to market

demands so as to avoid undisposable surpluses and achieve steady and fair income for farmers. For instance, some Virginia tobacco lands in the Ilocos provinces, in the face of a soaring tobacco surplus, may be shifted to cotton production needed by our expanding textile mills.

We must now take bold and definite steps to improve the mechanism for internal marketing and distribution and develop a sound credit structure that will sustain the growth of agriculture and the agricultural industries. In the field of crop loans for small farmers underwritten by the ACCFA and the Development Bank of the Philippines to the tune of ₱50 million, there is need for more aggressiveness and liberality in credit mechanism to shake off alien control. The Rural Banks now numbering 126 should be strengthened by further government aid in capitalization so that they can participate more effectively in the campaign to regain Philippine control in rural areas.

Our experience during the last few years indicates the utmost desirability of a practical shift from a public marketing system to a more active role on the part of private enterprise. In the case of rice and corn marketing, it is both urgent and propitious that our Government banks and the rural banks back up a structure of long-term credit assistance to private warehouses and millers.

During the year under review, we also made steady progress in land reforms and public land distribution. The NARRA resettled over 1,000 settler-families, mostly in the provinces of Bukidnon, Lanao, Cotabato, Palawan and Isabela. The Bureau of Lands continued to extend the survey and subdivision of disposable public agricultural lands, and distributed during the year over 23,000 land patents.

While farmers should be extended all possible assistance as far as credits and marketing facilities are concerned, I believe that in the long run, the continued subsidy and price support of certain products will do more harm than good to public welfare. *There is clear indication that a realistic reexamination of our laws on price support be undertaken before it is too late.*

I am proud to inform Congress that in the community development program under the PACD and with ICA assistance, we rose to unprecedented heights of achievement. At the death of President Magsaysay we had 2,110 community development projects in 1,185 barrios. Now we have 21,480 projects in 5,425 barrios of which 9,293 were undertaken in 1959. These community development projects range feeder roads to community assembly houses, poultry, artesian wells, barrio waterworks, communal irrigation, and others.

This phase of social service fully deserves the generous support of Congress which I hereby request.

### ***Development of Foreign Markets***

I wish to call attention again to the matter of developing new foreign markets for our products. I have directed the resumption and conclusion of trade agreements with Germany, Japan, and other countries. A diversified market will enable us to sell our products at the best possible price and thus maximize our income. As United States duties become increasingly heavy on Philippine goods under the Laurel-Langley Agreement, the problem of diversification becomes more marked.

A significant development in this regard is the fact that half of our trade is now conducted with countries other than the United States, particularly with Western Europe and our Asian neighbors, whereas ten years ago, three-fourths of our trade was exclusively with America.

We should explore the possibility of price adjustments on our products to make them more competitive with similar products of other countries. The method open to us in our campaign for higher export receipts are indeed many and varied, among which are the institution of quality control, the encouragement of more intensive processing, a more intensive development of by-product industries in order to utilize what is now waste, and stepped-up specialized exploration to find more industrial uses of our sugar, abaca, coconut, tobacco, etc.

### ***The Problem of Barter***

Last year I recommended the repeal of Republic Act No. 1410 with a view to plugging the loopholes provided through barter. While this law was repealed, another law, Republic Act No. 2262, was approved, designed to provide incentives directly to producers. This was done, I understand, in realistic recognition of the fact that there are commodities which are produced mainly for local consumption, and surpluses thereof can only be profitably sold abroad through barter. Undeniably, there are also a few marginal industries on which the employment of a large number of our people actually depend and for which barter alone offers better chances of survival.

In this connection I beg to announce that the rice and corn surpluses of 1959 are bigger than the 1958 surpluses an eloquent proof of the success of our program for self-sufficiency in food. We shall also have an estimated surplus of about 20 million kilos of Virginia tobacco this year. But all these surpluses cannot be profitably sold for dollars abroad. The NARIC has failed, for lack of adequate financing, in the price support program for rice and corn. It is increasingly becoming difficult for the Central Bank to finance the tobacco price support under the present law. In rice and corn, prices have gone down lower than production cost. ***It has therefore become imperative that we decisively act to find the solution to these, problems. Meantime barter for these surpluses seems the only way to provide an incentive directly to producers.***

### THE FISCAL SITUATION

The cold fact of our fiscal situation has been and continues to be that the country's revenue structure is no longer capable of supporting the irreducible requirements of a national program of accelerated social and economic development.

The authorized expenditures from the General Fund, including ₱99.4 million of supplementary appropriations approved last year, now total ₱1,487.8 million.

Since the General Fund income estimates amount to ₱900.5 million only, we have been constrained to continue the policy of stringency in government expenditures. The expenditures of appropriations aggregating ₱565.2 million had to be stopped and forced savings of ₱22.1 million had to be imposed on all departments, bureaus, and offices of the Executive Branch. Total obligations from all funds combined for 1960 have been reduced by ₱147.3 million.

In our effort to pursue our fiscal stabilization program and to minimize the inflationary pressures generated by large-scale public spending of the proceeds of bond issues, we have effected cutbacks in public works and economic development projects. We have reduced the bond funds for these purposes from ₱126.2 million to only ₱70.3 million.

Our revenues have increased consistently from year to year, from ₱530.8 million in 1953 to ₱789.4 million in 1959. Yet these increases have not been sufficient to cover the rise in government expenditures required by an expanding economy and a rapidly growing population. Consequently, we have to face the problem of balancing the budget every year by careful programming and retrenchment measures on public expenditures.

The answer to this mounting budgetary problem is, of course, increased revenues. At the present juncture it is not necessary to increase the taxes. It is attainable through an improvement in the efficiency of our tax collection machinery, a revamp of the existing tax system and revenue structure, and a coordinated effort on the part of both the Legislative and the Executive branches in formulating and implementing an equitable tax system. Toward this end, my recommendation for the establishment of a Joint Legislative-Executive Tax Commission was approved by the Congress. ***I urge you to consider carefully the recommendations which this Tax Commission will submit within ten days from today.***

### EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

We have continued to extend the benefits of education to an increasing number of children. Last year we were able to admit 119,000 new pupils by opening 3,000 additional classes.

However, because of budgetary limitations, the Government has had to fall back upon private institutions to supplement its educational efforts. To maintain the highest standards possible in these schools, an increase in the supervisory force would be desirable.

The teaching of science and mathematics as well as the improvement of the vocational curricula received greater impetus during the year. Radio broadcasts through a donation of 500 transistor radios from the Australian Government were started this year. The production of foodstuffs, as well as the promotion of home industries, has been pushed with greater vigor.

The creation of the National Science Development Board has given fresh impetus to the promotion of science and technology. Its research activities are geared to economic development and national health. For the first time all the research projects for the control of the dreaded kadang-kadang of coconuts have been consolidated in a Research Committee under the Board.

As I mentioned in the beginning of this message, the cornerstone of an atomic research center has just been laid. A reactor has been donated by the United States Atomic Energy Commission. With the establishment of this center, we will engage in the production of radioisotopes for the use of agriculture, industry, and medicine. This is a landmark in our scientific progress, as it opens up for our youth the vast field of nuclear science and ultimately harnesses the mightiest industrial power known to man to cancel human poverty from our land. ***I submit that no project is more deserving of full support by Congress than the nuclear center.***

## SECURITY AND WELFARE

### ***National Defense***

Aside from pursuing its primary mission, the Department of National Defense has supplemented the rural development program of the Administration. In this connection I wish to inform you that plans for the implementation of the Armed Forces' commission under the law to engage in public construction, food production, land resettlement, and rural development in addition to its inherent duties have been completed. In fact, several projects are already being actually undertaken.

Our Armed Forces, I am proud to say, has done well in the maintenance of peace and order and the enforcement of the country's defense structure. We have every reason to be proud of the laws. It was the principal arm of the Commission on Elections that conducted in 1959 free, peaceful, and honest national elections. Its civilian chiefs and its general staff have accomplished much in the way of improving the count of its officers and men. They will continue to be an invaluable asset to the life of the nation.

### ***Public Works***

Under the retrenchment policy, the Government has confined itself to the construction and improvement of only essential public improvements which are supportive and promotive of agro-industrial development. Nevertheless, during the calendar year 1959 the Government undertook the construction of irrigation and water supply systems, flood control and shore protection works, airfields and airports, ports and harbors, and roads and bridges for which we invested One Hundred Sixty-Nine million pesos (₱169 million). Worthy of note is the completion of national and communal irrigation systems and the installation of irrigation pumps, all of which can now irrigate about 45,000 additional hectares of agricultural land. The year 1959 also saw the virtual completion of the construction of 768 kilometers of development highways in Mindanao.

***I invite the attention of Congress to the emerging need of legislation directed towards the multi-phase utilization and exploitation of the abundant water resources of the country not only for power, but also for water supply, flood control and irrigation.*** In this way we can maximize the benefits for lowest cost.

In the case of other public works financed with dollar loans being extended both by the U. S. Export-Import Bank and the Development Loan Fund for transportation projects—air, land, and water—committed under the Eisenhower-Garcia communique on the occasion of my last state visit to the United States, ***legislative measures are necessary to make available sufficient peso support for projects already submitted to, or approved by, these lending institutions.***

***Health*** The health of the nation has been maintained at a satisfactory level. The birth rate has shown a considerable increase whereas the death rate has decreased. Mortality rates from the ten leading causes of death have been reduced. All of these facts indicate an improvement in the cleanliness and sanitation of our communities.

The policy of improving the rural health centers is being pursued without letup. To supplement the services which have been made available to the rural areas, the help of private persons and firms has been enlisted. Efforts are being exerted to expand hospital services in the rural areas.

### ***Labor***

The problem of unemployment continues to be a major national concern. I am still of the firm belief that the ideal solution to this problem is the intensification of our industrial development program to multiply job opportunities. For instance, the organization of more than 4,000 industrial and commercial firms in 1959 has absorbed a sizeable portion of the unemployed. It is also necessary for labor to acquire the modern technology so much needed in modern industry. It is gratifying to know that in Asia our manpower has the better technological training with the exception of Japan, but there is much room for improvement demanded by our expanding agro-industrial economy. The establishment this year in the University of the Philippines of an Asian Educational Labor Center for the training of labor leaders in Free Asia is a blessing to our economy.

The social security coverage for the workers continues to expand under the Social Security System for the private sector and under the Government Service Insurance System for the government sector. Three and a half million Filipinos are now enjoying the protection and benefits of our social security systems.

These measures to improve the security of the working-man are eloquent proofs of our administration's deep concern with the lot of the workers. But it is my considered view that Congress should do more for them. ***It should undertake a serious study of how to facilitate laborers to participate as shareholders in the firm where they work. This system will give the workers a sense of belonging and a deeper sense of responsibility. It may eventually end the strike problem. But the greatest blessing of all is that the system may end the mad race between rise in production cost and rise in prices and thus enable our export products to compete in the world market I commend this suggestion to your serious consideration for the sake of the millions of our less fortunate brothers who furnish the sinews of industry.***

### ***Civil Service***

The Civil Service Act enacted during the last session of Congress has not been fully implemented by the promulgation of necessary rules and regulations. The law has some provisions which are so vague and uncertain that they give rise to conflicting interpretations.

For instance, there was a question with respect to the power of the president to declare positions in the civil service as policy determining, primarily confidential, and highly technical. This necessitated an opinion from the Secretary of Justice, who ruled that such power could not be wrested from the President and given to any other party. The implementation of the law itself has had to be deferred because of practical considerations. For instance, the creation of a Civil Service Appeal Court of three members to dispose of some 300 appealed cases a year with a salary of ₱10,000 each a year is considered premature. ***It is clear in the light of these facts that Congress should take the opportunity of restudying the Civil Service Act during the present regular session.***

## **TOURISM**



The jet age has come and the influx of tourists in our country is bound to come if we can provide for them modern tourist facilities. It is therefore urgent that we develop as fast as possible the tourist industry which bids fair to become an important source of dollar income as it did in many countries. ***The need for promotional and publicity services abroad, the improvement of hotel and transportation services, the modernization of our airports for jet planes, and the preservation and development of our numerous tourist attraction spots—all these require a sizeable outlay which I ask Congress to provide.*** This investment will surely give us returns a thousandfold.

During the World Tourist Conference I announced my plan to proclaim 1961 a “See the Philippines—Visit the Orient Year” as an invitation to the world traveling public to visit our country and see the rest of the Far East. This is also the year we will celebrate the Jose Rizal Centennial anniversary for which Congress appropriated ₱10 million. Thailand has since responded to our suggestion to join us in a coordinated move to attract visitors to the Orient while other countries have indicated their readiness to take simultaneous action.

The government corporations made progress in 1959 in expanding the country’s essential services and industries. In line with our decision to proceed immediately with the establishment of an integrated steel plant in Iligan, initial groundwork of grading and drainage has been undertaken by the NASSCO.

The establishment of an integrated steel mill will supply the missing link in our industrial development. Private enterprise should undertake this project in joint venture with the government. It is also necessary that sufficient leeway be allowed for the negotiation of necessary credit for the project so that we may tap resources in the United States and other countries.

***The early development and exploitation of the Surigao laterite mineral reserves, estimated to be worth more than ₱270 billion, should be given, first priority of Congress in 1960.*** The Act we approved for the development of these tremendous natural resources did not produce the desired result. ***I therefore urge a reexamination of our plan.***

In marine transportation the NASSCO built and launched for the first time a 1600-ton vessel. Of greater significance is the acquisition of 12 ocean-going vessels of about ten thousand tonnage, to step up the carrying capacity of Philippine flag vessels from 3 to 7 per cent. We are acquiring through the Reparations Commission 15 other ships of about the same tonnage.

The expansion of our railway lines to Cagayan and Sorsogon has been started by the conduct of preparatory bidding by the Manila Railroad Company. Last June the Baliuag-Gapan section of the Cabanatuan line was completed.

We have made equally satisfactory progress in electric power development. Two units of the Binga project have been completed and the other two units will be installed by March this year. The completion of two units at the Maria Cristina power system will be undertaken with the steel project.

Government corporations were organized to pioneer in new fields of economic and business activities where private capital or enterprise was shy. There is a consensus of opinion that most of these corporations are over-staffed and are thus saddled with over-sized overhead budgets. ***It is my considered opinion and I recommend that where the activities of these government corporations can be taken over by private enterprise, and whenever their pioneering objectives have been basically accomplished, such corporations should be sold and transferred as soon as possible to private enterprise under reasonable terms and conditions, except those performing mainly social or governmental functions many of which can be converted into regular government offices or agencies.***

## FOREIGN RELATIONS

Our accomplishments in the field of foreign relations in 1959 have raised the prestige of the Philippine Republic before the eyes of the world. More and more, our voice is heard with greater respect in international councils. We have evolved a foreign policy whose cornerstones are the upholding of national honor and dignity and the promotion of a world peace with justice and honor and freedom for all. We are of the Free World, and as such we desire closer ties with all its members, particularly with the leader thereof and our neighbors in Asia.

In pursuit of this policy I made a State visit to the Republic of Vietnam during 1959 and cemented with that nation a most cordial relation. I expect to make a similar visit this year to Malaya.

In the negotiations for the revision of the Military Bases Agreement with the United States, the two governments in a common effort to enhance further their long-established friendship reached the following points of accord:

1. Reduction of the life of the bases lease from 99 to 25 years;
2. Considerable delimitation of bases areas, relinquishment by the United States of approximately 118,000 hectares of land, and actual transfer of the Olongapo Community to the Philippine Government;
3. Previous consultation with the Philippine Government on the military operational use of the bases for purposes other than the mutual defense of both countries;
4. Previous consultation with the Philippine Government before the United States could put up missile launching sites in the Philippines; and
5. Elevation to treaty commitment of United States responsibility to repel instantly attack on any partion of the Philippine territory.

***We are determined to pursue this course of action until all irritants in Philippine-American relations shall have been removed.***

Activation of the Philippine Omnibus Claims resulted in the actual payment to the Philippines of \$23 million for gold devaluation, favorable endorsement by the State Department of \$73 million for additional war damage payments, and adjustments in our obligations under the Romulo-Snyder Agreement. Plans are being worked out and steps have been taken for the reexamination of the claims rejected by the United States.

We have also reached agreement with Taipeh on the final liquidation of the ten-year-old Chinese deportee problem.

We are exploring the possibilities of expanded trade with Australia, Germany, Israel, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Korea, Spain, Taipeh, and Vietnam.

In the United Nations we have played an active role for the attainment of world peace completely free from the nightmare of a nuclear war. We have co-sponsored the resolution for the continuance of the 10-Power Disarmament Committee and the reference thereto of new disarmament proposals by Soviet Russia and the Western Powers.

We have concluded a Treaty of Friendship with Vietnam. We have also laid the foundation jointly with the Malaya Government for the formation of a South East Asia Association of States for mutual assistance.

***We propose to continue with our reoriented foreign policies and, to this end, I urge approval of the measures calculated to improve and strengthen our foreign service corps.***

## **THE PROBLEM OF GRAFT AND CORRUPTION**

In my last message to the Congress I appealed for the enactment of appropriate measures to strengthen further the unrelenting drive against graft and corruption. Congressional decisive action is eagerly being awaited by our people. According to the latest figures available, we investigated during the anti-graft campaign period 12,233 cases of various corruption in office of which roughly 50 per cent were decided and 4,024 respondents were found guilty. In spite of this creditable record of achievements, there still remains a tremendous amount of work to be done.

Let me point out a few outstanding accomplishments of the PFFC assigned to Customs. It busted the so-called hot car racket. It busted the Customs brokerage racket and the Customs protection racket. It is well on the way of busting the dollar smuggling racket and the overshipment racket. Among recent cases of corruption brought out, investigated, and/or prosecuted mainly by the PCAPE are the salting away of dollars abroad, ACCFA upgrading of tobacco, anomalies in the NAMARCO, Public Service Commission, Motor Vehicles Office, traffic courts, BIR, and others.

The overall situation is such that no less than a total effort is necessary to reduce to the minimum this social cancer.

## **OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

In addition to the foregoing recommendations embodied in the early parts of this message, I feel duty-bound to submit others bearing on important state matters, *viz*:

### *I. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS*

Permit me, gentlemen of Congress, to reiterate my previous recommendations on the amendments to our Constitution. More than ever I am convinced of the urgency and imperativeness of these constitutional reforms in response to the requirements of a growing Philippine democracy, I therefore recommend strongly prompt adoption of the following amendments:

- 1) The synchronization of national and local elections every four years. Indeed we have to halt this continuous procession of expensive election campaigns which detract from, rather than add to, the stability of our democratic institutions.
- 2) The election of senators on the basis of specific senatorial districts. Let the conservative and stabilizing role of the Senate in our bicameral system be maintained by extending the terms of its members to eight years, one half of whom shall be elected every quadrennial election.
- 3) The creation of a Presidential Electoral Tribunal, to be a constitutional body completely independent from the Executive and the Legislative branches of our government, to hear and decide protests that may arise as a result of presidential elections.
- 4) The 30-day period within which time the President vetoes or approves a certain bill should be counted from the date of the bill's submittal to the President and not from the date marking the adjournment of Congress;
- 5) In the event the annual appropriation act for an ensuing year is not approved, the general appropriation act for the current fiscal year should be deemed continued in force until such time as the new fiscal year's budget is passed; and
- 6) Finally, the provision on the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus may be reexamined to attune it more to the spirit of democracy.

### *H. REPARATIONS*

My request made a year ago for the amendment of the Reparations Law is hereby reiterated along the following lines:

- 1) To eliminate the grace period of 24 months granted reparations beneficiaries before payment. On the contrary, a down payment or performance bond should be required of reparations beneficiaries;
- 2) To prohibit reparations applicants and end-users from negotiating directly with Japanese suppliers, and thereby prevent overpricing through collusion. Procurement negotiations for reparations should be conducted directly and only by the Philippine Reparations Mission.
- 3) To charge a service fee equally on government and private reparations transactions, so as to provide sufficient funds for operational expenditures of the Reparations Commission;
- 4) To amend in Section 2, Subsection (a), of the Reparations Act the clause "entities wholly owned by Filipino citizens" to read "entities controlled by Filipino citizens."

5) To clothe the legal officer of the Reparations Mission with specific powers and responsibility, he being the officer of the Philippine Government who may sue and be sued in the court in reparations cases, and not the chief of the Reparations Mission.

### *III FINANCING OF OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM*

I reiterate my recommendation to the Congress for the reexamination of the present method of financing our elementary and secondary schools with a view to placing them on a stable basis. Action on this recommendation is imperative if we are to comply with the constitutional mandate to provide at least free primary instruction to all children of school age.

### *IV. SWEEPSTAKES*

We should expand the scope of the activities of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office so that its proceeds could be utilized to provide rural areas with artesian wells, barrio waterworks, public toilets, and other sanitary and health facilities.

### *V. CONSERVATION OF FOREST AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES*

A rigid enforcement of our forest conservation laws is a crying need of the country if we want to stop the insane and vandalistic despoliation of our forest resources. An automatic reforestation system should be instituted by requiring forest concessionaires to plant five trees for every tree they cut. It is therefore recommended that any violation of the forest conservation laws committed by concessionaires or their agents should be made a cause for the revocation or suspension of their license; permit, or concession. Likewise, the use of forest clearings other than for reforestation should be cause for such suspension or revocation.

Related to our forest conservation concern is the proper exploitation and conservation of our fishing and other marine resources. These have been mercilessly subjected to dynamite devastation. Besides encouraging fish culture in our swamp lands, we should encourage deep-sea fishing.

I hereby inform Congress that we received a commitment of a \$3 million aid from the technical assistance program of the United Nations for the development of the dairy industry in this country. Let us take full advantage of this opportunity by providing peso support financing not only for dairy but also for cattle raising. Such industries are appropriate for rural areas which, combined with further development of our home and cottage industries, will lift up the living conditions of the masses in the rural areas. I request support for these industries, part of which may be taken from the proceeds of reparations for the sake of 70 per cent of our population living in rural areas.

### *VI. CAPITAL GAINS TAX ABOLITION*

The capital gains tax has worked as a deterrent to expansion of investment. At this time when we need every peso available to be invested in our economic development program, this tax has become anachronistic. I therefore recommend its abolition.

### *VII. RECLAMATION AND TRANSPORTATION*

I urge immediate enactment of the bill now pending in the Senate on reclamation projects for the Manila port. The port of Manila, which is the port of entry and exit of about 75 per cent of our imports and exports, must have modern port facilities to make it the best in the Far East.

In this connection may I inform Congress that air transportation need be developed with a capacity to connect our 7,000 islands. Our international airports must rise to the needs of the jet age. We must encourage, free competition among responsible air transportation companies. Our asphalt roads should be gradually converted into concrete

roads. In the long run it is more economic that way. With the existence now of cement factories we should be able to do this at minimum cost.

#### VIII. *ON GRAFT AND CORRUPTION*

I recommend that a Graft-busting Commission be created empowered to make investigation, at its own initiative or by superior order, of all cases of graft and corruption in government offices and to prosecute such cases directly before competent court. It should be clothed with broad preventive powers to forestall the commission of graft and corruption and should be endowed with sufficient personnel to watch government corporations, banks, financial institutions, tax collecting offices and agencies, offices dispensing privileges, franchises, permits, licenses, quota allocations and the like; and with such other offices as may be determined by the Commission.

Nothing will satisfy our people less than a total war against corruption. I have full faith that Congress will rise equal to the task demanded by the situation.

#### IX. *DECONTROL AND TARIFF REVISION*

I am glad to announce that the relative success of our stabilization measures has made it possible for us now to start planning carefully a move for gradual decontrol as envisioned in Republic Act No. 2609, more popularly known as the Dollar Margin Law. We should never lose sight of the fact that some of these economic control laws or regulations are yet vital to our development efforts. For instance, our new infant industries still need a protective climate against foreign competition. A reckless, immediate, and total decontrol as advocated by some quarters will spell the complete annihilation of our industrialization program. In many instances, however, some of these controls may, in the course of a few years, be lifted if accompanied with the necessary tariff law revision. In the matter of controls on credit facilities, it is clearly indicated that a gradual liberalization of the same on a strictly selective basis may now be effected. For instance, the rate of interest on agricultural development loans should be lower than commercial loans.

It is therefore recommended that a bicameral special congressional committee be created to undertake a comprehensive study on integrated gradual decontrol program with the assistance and cooperation of the Central Bank, Tariff, Customs, and Budget Commissions, and also with the participation of the Chambers of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture.

### CONCLUSION

Gentlemen, in the past we achieved success not alone by the creative endeavor of the nation but also by the help of Divine Providence. Now we have set new goals for our people, but again, we cannot succeed alone. So we shall continue to seek and rely on the guiding hand of Him who holds the destiny of men and nations in his hand. On His mercy and His strength we rely. And after fulfillment of our aspirations, we like Moses after the deliverance of his people from Egypt, shall sing in the fullness of joy:

*“Dux fuisti in misericordia tua populo quem redemisti; et ‘poriasti eum in fortitudine tua, ad habitaculam. sanctum tuum.”* (Exodus, 15-13). “In thy mercy thou hast been a leader to the people which thou hast redeemed: and in thy strength thou hast carried them to thy holy habitation.”

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Carlos P. Garcia, Fourth State of the Nation Address, January 23, 1961**

**Message  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
To the Congress  
On the State of the Nation**

[Delivered on January 23, 1961]

Mr. Senate President, Mr. Speaker, Members of the Congress:

It is with deep satisfaction and warranted optimism that I now open the fourth regular session of this Congress. For during the year 1960 Divine Providence has made it possible for us as a nation to attain new summits in our unending Odyssey in the highway of progress and development. Our success has deepened our faith and heightened our hope that the Philippine Republic will live to attain its sublime national Destiny.

As we lurch forward into the future, we derive new strength and fresh inspiration by surveying the horizon we have traversed during the year under review. We see that we have reached new heights of prosperity and development as a result of our momentous decision to enact into legislative mandates the fiscal stabilization measures which we implemented vigorously.

Thus under the stewardship of the Nacionalista administration:

- (1) The Philippines chalked up a new high in dollar reserve standing at \$205 million during the last quarter of 1960 after paying our short term foreign obligations in the amount of \$84 million.
- (2) Our gross national product has registered a spectacular increase by P600 million in 1960 and stands at an estimated level of P10.8 billion as against P10.2 billion in 1959.
- (3) Our favorable balance of payments which we lost during and after the war, and which we regained only beginning 1959, has continue to rise in 1960 in the amount of around, \$30 million, and the reserve, as of December 31, 1960, stands at \$192 million as against \$162 million in 1959;
- (4) We continue to have a balanced budget and even a surplus in the general funds,
- (5) Our peso both here and abroad is steadily gaining in strength, rising from P4.10 to the dollar in 1959 to P3.20 to the dollar beginning December of 1960;
- (6) Because of the success of the stabilization program which went even beyond our most sanguine expectation to the chagrin and discomfiture of the prophets of doom, we were able to start in April 1960 the Administration's four-year decontrol program. Even before the year ended, we began the second stage of decontrol and all indications are that we will complete in two years the four-year decontrol program and, God willing, by 1962 our national economy shall be completely free;
- (7) In the moral aspect of our national life, I am happy to report that our campaign against graft and corruption has achieved an unprecedented record. In the year reviewed we had in round figures 22,000 administrative cases and decided 14,000 cases with 9,500 convictions and 4,000 exonerations. The rest are still pending. A total of 740 criminal cases were filed.

In general, it can be said without fear of successful contradiction that the year 1960 has been a year of signal achievements in many fields, specially in economics; it marked perceivable advances in our international prestige, and the sun and stars of our flag are shining brighter.

## **I. ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **A. Improvement in the National Economy**

The great improvement in our fiscal position is a high point of the year just past. Easily its most encouraging aspect is a budgetary surplus in the general fund.

Customs and internal revenue collection had a combined increase of P151.7 million in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1960. To this increase, Customs contributed P101.9 million and Internal Revenue, P49.8 million.

From July 1 to December 31, 1960, actual collections of the two agencies totaled P676.3 million, representing an increase of P55.8 million over those of the corresponding period last year. This is an indication that collections for the current fiscal year will surpass that of 1960.

These marked increases in revenue collections were achieved as result of a determined campaign against graft and corruption and of reforms in the Bureau of Internal Revenue and in the Bureau of Customs.

Despite an increase of about 13 per cent in our imports as against only a 10 per cent increase in our exports, we continued to improve the favorable balance-of-payments position we achieved in 1959 for the first time in decades. This encouraging trend has in turn raised our international reserve to a new high of \$205 million during the last quarter of 1960.

The recovery of the economy has been made possible mainly by the successful implementation of the stabilization program, the principal features of which were the margin fee and budgetary retrenchment measures.

As part of the stabilization program and as a prerequisite to decontrol, we continued the monetary restriction during the early part of 1960 in order to hold down prices and maintain the international reserve.

Since the margin levy, the major measure of the stabilization program, went into effect about the middle of 1959, the external value of the peso has continued to increase. In July and August, 1959, the free market value of our currency was as low as P4.10 to \$1.00; as of December 1960 it has improved to P3.20 to \$1.00. The drop in 1959 was partly due to the increased demand for foreign exchange born of our efforts to accelerate industrialization. However, the margin levy, associated with a more discriminate foreign exchange allocation and selective credit policies and the exercise of greater fiscal restraints, has brought about a continuing improvement in the external value of the peso.

External confidence in our economy has been so enhanced that foreign banks have gone as far as offering loans for economic development both to our government and to private investors. This puts to shame the self-proclaimed prophets of doom who had greeted our proposed economic stabilization measures with dire predictions of economic disaster.

The success of the stabilization program in solidifying and strengthening our internal and external financial position encouraged the Administration to consider the relaxation of restrictions and controls.

In April of last year, we launched a four-year program of lifting monetary and trade controls aimed at the full restoration of free enterprise eventually. Its first phase called for the creation of a free market for foreign exchange equivalent to approximately one-fourth of all foreign receipts and payments. The results were so encouraging that the second phase was made effective much ahead of schedule, barely six months later. The expanded the free foreign exchange market to approximately one-half. We expect to attain complete decontrol within this year of 1961, thereby completing decontrol in two years instead of four.

As we approach the stage of full decontrol, there is need for reexamining authorized exemptions from the margin levy, which will ultimately result in a unified equilibrium of exchange rate.

Full decontrol may obviously be accompanied by an increase in price of imports, but it will create conditions favorable for the establishment of new industries to increase production for export and employment and, in the long run, stabilize prices. With the savings of foreign exchange resulting from the reduction of imports of consumer goods, we shall have more resources available for the importation of machineries and equipment to expand industrial production.

Complementary to decontrol is credit relaxation. Among other measures, rediscount rates and the bank reserve requirements have been reduced and cash deposit requirement for letters of credit for imports has been abolished. The overall result has been a substantial increase in credit available to the business sector.

Outstanding loans for commercial and savings banks rose from P1.96 billion at the end of 1959 to P2.07 billion at the end of September 1960, or an increase of P110 million in nine months.

There are also continuing increases in agricultural and industrial production, electric power output, transportation and, accordingly, employment and earnings. Agricultural crop yield in 1960 rose by 3 per cent over the preceding year's level.

The industrial program gained further headway as manufacturing production reached new peaks of output in 1960. It expanded another 8.3 per cent, surpassing the previous year's gain of 7.8 per cent. Electric power output rose by 80 per cent during the first nine months of 1960 over that of the corresponding period of 1959.

As a result of the expanded industrial and agricultural production the gross national product increased from P10.2 billion in 1959 to an estimated P10.8 billion in 1960 or a rise of P600 million. This represents a six per cent increase over the rate of increase of the gross national product in 1959 over that of 1958.

Accordingly, there has been a continuing growth in employment. When I took over in 1957 the employed labor force was estimated by the Bureau of Census and Statistics at 8,149,000. In 1959 the employment figure rose to 8,959,000 or an increase of 810 laborers. The increased economic activities in 1960 as evidenced by the marked improvement in the gross national product indicates an even higher level of employment in 1960.

## **B. Agricultural Development**

The economic stability that we have achieved is due no less to our economic development policy.

In the agricultural sector, we have pursued the highest priority national objective of self-sufficiency in rice and corn. For this purpose, we have maintained the annual appropriation of P20 million.

Emphasis is being given to abaca and coconut, two of our major export products. To rehabilitate the abaca industry, we are inaugurating a balanced program aimed at restoring our abaca production to its prewar level of one million bales a year. I urge the appropriation of P20 million for this purpose.

In an effort to discover the means of eradicating cadang-cadang which seriously threatens the coconut industry, research is being intensified by all agencies concerned. For the general development of the industry, I am directing the release of P10 million out of the appropriation of P30 million which has already been provided for the purpose.

It is time that we step up the development of the livestock industry through the enactment of appropriate legislation. At present our meat and milk production meets only 15 per cent of the national requirement. We have to import P48 million worth of meat, milk and dairy products each year. The need for assuring an adequate supply of these vital food products calls for serious efforts to develop the livestock industry.



There is need for stepping up the pace towards increasing fish production from the deep seas. The Philippines tuna resources are among the richest in the world. Let us exploit them.

I recommend the establishment of a Deep-Sea Fishing Administration for the purpose of encouraging, coordinating and assisting the development by the private sector of deep-sea fishing. Accordingly, the Development Bank of the Philippines should set aside no less than P10 million a year for this purpose.

While it is wise to encourage the utilization of our forest resources, we have it necessary to look into their conservation and effective exploitation. Scientific management of commercial forest areas through selective logging has been intensified. For a better implementation of our program of planting trees on denuded watersheds, grasslands and marginal lands, the Reforestation Administration has been established.

To give more force to the laws against illegal deforestation, I urge the amendment of Section 267 of the National Internal Revenue Code so that logs illegally cut shall be subject to confiscation even after the payment of fines.

I desire to place squarely before this Congress the matter of reconciling our policies in the interest of the development not only of the Virginia tobacco but also of the native tobacco industry. The United States is now disposed to welcome the entry of cigars and other tobacco products from the Philippines as a result of her cutting economic ties with Cuba. However, let us not forget that under the prohibitions of Republic Act No. 1194, we do not welcome American tobacco here, and we can hardly expect the United States to be hospitable to our tobacco.

The opportunity of gaining a permanent foothold in the American market for the Philippine cigar industry has presented itself as a result of recent developments and we must seize its opportunity now or we lose it forever.

It would therefore be to the interest of the Philippine tobacco industry that Congress reexamine the commercial restrictions in Republic Act No. 1194 without, however, unduly prejudicing the local Virginia tobacco industry with a view to establishing on a mutually profitable and reciprocal basis the Philippine-American tobacco trade.

In connection with cigar manufacture, it may be necessary that government policy should encourage mechanization of cigar making if we hope to fill our cigar quota in the American market to the tune of 180 million cigars of which we have only filled the meager amount of six million cigars.

### **C. Industrial Development**

Even more significant and decisive strides have been made in the field of industrial development.

In food processing, two wheat flour mills and three milk canning plants are now in operation. Three additional flour mills will start this year. The goal for the production of cotton textiles is 300 million yards a year. Spinning and weaving capacity is being rapidly expanded towards this end. The ramie textile mills in Davao will soon be in operation.

To step up the supply of building materials, five new cement factories have been approved during the last two years. Already cement prices have gone down. Now the cementing of all our highways will be made feasible. Soon we may export this product.

Centrifugal sugar production is also expected to increase with the additional sugar quota for the Philippines to the tune of half million (500,000) tons. In this connection, I am glad to announce that necessary credit facilities have been extended by the Philippine National Bank with the support of the Central Bank and the Development of the Philippines to permit the ready expansion in sugar production and take advantage of the opportunity of increasing the country's foreign exchange earnings in the amount of about \$60 million. All in all, the total amount of sugar we have to export to the United States this year is 1.4 million tons. We have to produce this or lose the additional quota.

We are also aiming at self-sufficiency in the production of pulp and paper. We have now an aggregate annual capacity of 95,200 tons of paper and 9,500 tons of pulp. The additional pulp and paper mills will raise production to the level of national requirement. Our other important objective is to produce newsprint paper.

We are also stepping up production of acetic acid, soda ash and caustic soda. We have established a sheet glass factory and three glass container factories.

Fuel production registered a substantial expansion. The most notable development in this field is the construction of three new petroleum refineries in addition to one already in operation.

This administration is determined to realize its major project of establishing integrated steel plants. It has encouraged and supported the participation of the private sector in this industry. The private segment of our economy has made initial investment towards owning 49% of the capitalization. Private participation in the Iligan project calls for appropriate amendments of the charter of the National Shipyards and Steel Corporation which I strongly recommend.

To provide greater stimulus for the industrial development program, it is essential that appropriate business incentives be provided for. Fiscal measures are necessary to reduce the initial burden incident to the establishment of new enterprise.

The establishment of basic industries requires large capital investments. To lighten the initial burden, I recommend legislation granting basic industries full exemption from duties and taxes on their initial fixed capital requirements.

To improve the position of Filipino firms and corporations resulting from certain weaknesses in their capital structure and to provide incentives to all investors, other assistance measures should be approved by Congress.

On the other hand, there are certain industries which have been granted incentives under the Barter Law. Prior to decontrol, products of these industries could not be exported for dollars profitably. With the present rate of exchange under the second phase of decontrol, the need for such an arrangement no longer exists. I therefore, recommend the repeal of the Barter Law.

With regard to the restrictive provisions of the mining petroleum and corporation laws which deter the full development of our mining industries, I urge that measures be considered to relax them.

To undertake effectively the development program, we must expand and modernize transportation, communications, power and irrigation systems.

To expand our overseas shipping facilities the National Development Company procured 12 ocean-going vessels, nine of which have been delivered. Two interisland vessels have been constructed by the National Shipyards and Steel Corporation. We are modernizing the Government Telephone System on a national scale. We have acquired the right-of-way for the extension of the Manila Railroad lines to Cagayan and Sorsogon and it is expected that construction work will begin before June 30 this year.

The age of cement roads has come to the Philippines. It is high time that the main highways traversing the various agricultural and industrial areas (about 15,000 km. long) be paved with cement to reduce the cost of maintenance. The use of cement instead of asphalt in the construction of our roads will be far more economical in the long run. Local cement production will soon be expanded so as to bring down the price thereof and enable the government to undertake this ambitious project. I urge that Congress consider the adoption of a program cementing our national highways. To finance the initial phase of this project, I recommend the appropriation for the next fiscal year of the amount of P35 million. This will enable us this year to pave with cement at least 350 kilometers of our national highways to be apportioned in the following manner: 150 kilometers for Luzon, 100 kilometers for Visayas and 100 kilometers for Mindanao. This apportionment is in line with the industrial dispersal policy of this Administration.

In this connection, offers of private corporation or contractors to build for the government portions of the cement road system, under special terms or deferred payment plan, should be welcomed and accommodated.

Industrial power output has been increased by 265,000 kilowatts due mainly to the operation of the Binga Hydro electric project. Studies for four other hydroelectric projects with a total capacity of 359,000 kilowatts have been completed.

The bulk of the credit facilities and dollar allocations has been extended to industries in Manila and suburbs. I have directed a study on the dispersal of the industries supported by basic facilities. Our policy in this connection is to give priority to the area with the greatest potential. Priority should be given to the systematic development of Mindanao because of its tremendous natural resources and because it is the least developed among the three groups.

The financial resources required for economic development at the rate necessary to sustain a continuing growth will call for the tapping of idle savings and channeling them to productive investments. Towards this end, public policies should learn from the experience of more advanced countries by encouraging the establishment of investment houses quite distinct from the mutual funds. This will further strengthen the financial basis of the economy and assure sources of long-term funds for desirable productive ventures.

#### **D. Economic Nationalism and Trade**

Even as we are making provisions for expanding production, we have attended to increasing outlets for our output. We have promoted foreign trade both to expand the demand for our traditional exports and create foreign markets for new products.

In implementing the Retail Trade Nationalization Act, the Department of Commerce and Industry registered and assisted a great number of new Filipino retailers. This Congress also passed during the last session the Rice and Corn Trade Nationalization Law.

The role of non-agricultural cooperatives in the economy has gained added strength with the establishment of the Philippine National Cooperative Bank.

At present, there are a number of agencies with which businessmen have to deal in setting up an enterprise. In order to serve their needs, especially those of foreign investors, a law should be enacted centralizing these functions under one office.

I also recommend to revision of the General Banking Act to delimit the share of foreigners in jointly owned banks.

I propose the amendment of Republic Act No 1130 to abolish the Anti-Dummy Board and to transfer its function to the Department of Justice.

Without detracting from the policy to strengthen the position of Filipinos in economic activities, I consider it essential for the purpose of pushing the economy into a self sustaining momentum that we attract foreign capital to a greater measure than it has flowed into the country.

However, to attract foreign investment, it is necessary to provide for it a favorable climate, including the protection of foreign investors against non-business risks and assurance of an equitable treatment.

This year, as already announced, is "See the Philippines Visit the Orient Year." For the convenience of tourists, our national airport is being modernized to make it suitable for jet travel. With this we expect to attract more tourists. But we must spend for the establishment of necessary tourist attractions and facilities. Our national trait of hospitality to our foreign visitors should be made manifest in and through Customs, immigration Office, Visa Office, hotels, taxis, trains, and other transportation media, and by the people themselves. We are determined to make our income from tourism among the biggest items contributing to our dollar reserve.

## **II. EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

### **A. Problems in Education**

I consider it urgent that we take a closer look at the financial shortcomings of our public school system.

In line with my previous recommendation to reexamine the present method of financing our primary and secondary schools, propose the enactment of the Stabilization of School Financing Bill.

This bill provides for a partnership plan among the national, provincial, municipal and city governments in the financing of public primary and secondary education. Obviously, the additional financing responsibilities that shall be borne by the local governments would call for permissive legislation authorizing provincial and municipal governments to adopt measures to provide funds for adequate school maintenance.

To correct the acute shortage of textbooks we initiated a textbook printing project to print 35 million textbooks at a cost of P47 million, plus \$5.9 million as counterpart.

Private schools continue to play an important role in education. They accommodate 60 per cent of the secondary students and 90 per cent of those on the college and graduate levels. To the end that the highest standards of instruction possible may be maintained, an increase in the supervisory personnel is necessary. Supervision over private educational institutions in secondary and collegiate levels may be participated in by a Committee or Board elected by such private institutions. I urge legislative consideration of the idea to grant qualified private educational institutions a margin of curricular freedom to allow educational diversity in educational unity.

The University of the Philippines has maintained its traditional role of setting national standards for scholarship and research. More liberal financial support would enable it to intensify and expand its program of graduate studies and research and, what is more important, to enable it to embark on extension work of participating actively in community development.

### **B. Science and Technology**

We have intensified the national effort to improve the foundation of our scientific progress and we have encouraged science consciousness. We have maintained the science scholarship program. Arrangements are being made to establish a science high school in Manila. The U.P. College of Agriculture is gradually being recognized as the training institution for Asia in agricultural science. The establishment in Los Baños of the International Rice Research Institute will make the Philippines the center of scientific efforts to improve the industry that produces all of Asia's staple food.

With the establishment of the Philippine Atomic Research Center, the production of isotopes for uses in agriculture, industry and medicine is not far off.

In connection with the installation of the reactor in the Philippine Atomic Research Center, I recommend the passage of the Indemnity Bill which was introduced in last year's session of Congress.

To stabilize the national research program, I also urge Congress to consider the utilization of a portion of the proceeds from the foreign exchange levy to assure continuous financing of important research projects.

### **C. Social Welfare**

The Administration has given relief to and alleviated the plight of about 900,000 victims

of disaster and calamities. We also met the problems of juvenile delinquency, the physically handicapped, the infirm and the aged, the squatters and beggars. Some 40,000 individuals were helped to find new homes in more suitable

surrounding or sent back to the provinces or to NARRA settlements. Additional efforts to relocate squatters are in progress. The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes has raised great amounts of funds for social welfare activities. The broadening of the scope of its benefits should be considered by Congress.

#### **D. Social Security**

Today, almost four million people are enjoying the protection and benefits of the Social Security System for the private sector and the Government Service Insurance System for the government sector. These two systems also assist our economic development since a large portion of their resources is being channeled to productive investments in various sectors of our economy.

Agricultural workers are now covered under the Social Security System. They have a right to benefit from the enlightened and altruistic provisions of the Social Security Act.

#### **E. Housing**

The problem of providing low-cost housing for our wage-earners, particularly in urban areas, continues to be a major concern of this Administration. The Home Financing Commission, the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation and the National Urban Planning Commission should coordinate their efforts behind a bold long-range housing program for the masses. We must encourage the participation of private enterprise in this essential program. The Social Security System should embark on a low cost housing project for the benefit of its members.

#### **F. Labor**

This Administration has maintained its deep concern for labor's rights. During the last three years about P11 million were paid to aggrieved workers and employees.

With the establishment of four additional regional offices and the organization of the Women and Minors Bureau within the current fiscal year as already authorized by Congress, our Workmen's welfare will be further promoted.

The Apprenticeship Division has lately been expanded into a full-fledged office, indicating the importance this Administration gives to skills development. In view of the fact that Asian Economic Development Fund support for the project will cease this year, I urge the appropriation of an adequate sum to continue the operation of the Labor Market Information and Statistics Service Project.

In 1960, 283 new unions were organized and registered and 193 collective bargaining agreements were recorded. The fact that there were only 44 strikes in 1960 as against 59 strikes as the annual average during the preceding three years is an eloquent evidence of the growing contentment in the labor ranks, and of better relationship and understanding between management and labor. With the increasing acceptance by employers of the institution of collective bargaining, industrial peace has been greatly enhanced.

Significantly, through the favorable policies of the present administration, economic activities since 1953 have been so expanded as to accommodate an additional 2.2 million workers, thereby reducing unemployment from 1.4 million or 17 per cent of the labor force in 1953 to only 750,000 or 7.7 per cent of the labor force in 1959.

#### **G. Health**

Public health and sanitation services were further extended to the rural areas. Most of the diseases which have been the common causes of death are under control. Marked decrease was noted in the death rate as well as in the infant morality rate.

Hospital services have been improved. Rural health units have continued to minister to the needs of the masses. The Government has upgraded the standards of services.

More and more funds are needed in order to fully provide in the rural areas medical service and health facilities.

## **H. Rural Reconstruction and Community Development**

This Administration has from the start considered our rural inhabitants a special focus of our ameliorative efforts. Accordingly, we have taken every possible step to increase the rate of development in the rural areas.

We have revitalized the agencies dealing with rural credit and cooperative marketing. The operations of the rural banks have been expanded. We have devoted a substantial part of the resources of the Philippine National Bank and the Development Bank of the Philippines to affording credit on reasonable terms to small farmers. The latter has set aside P50 million for small loans. Rural banks have increased to 150 at the end of 1960. We accelerated the grants of land patents and homesteads and the resettlement efforts of the National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Administration. An international Rural Reconstruction Institute to be established in Cavite is designed to be the training center of future rural reconstruction leaders from Asia and Latin America. It is bound to have far-reaching effects on our rural reconstruction and community development.

The establishment last year of the Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Institute at Los Baños is another milestone in our efforts to revitalize and improve the management of credit and cooperative organizations serving the rural areas.

The Office of the Presidential Assistant on Community Development (PACD) is proving to be an effective instrumentality in the promotion of the welfare of the rural masses. In the short span of four years, the PACD has become a vital factor in the economic, social and cultural progress of our country by reawakening in our people on rural areas their capacity for self-help and an awareness of their ability to recognize their own problems and adopt measures for their solution.

Where once existed barrios wrapped in apathy and a sense of hopelessness, there now thrive invigorated communities inspired by democratic grassroots leadership—a strong guarantee against the inroads of Communism.

From an initial coverage of 22 provinces in 1956, the community development movement now covers 55 provinces. Self-help projects undertaken by the people in the past four years number 29,886 valued at P29 million. These projects included food production, varied barrio improvements, feeder roads, barrio waterworks and spring development, repair of schools, communal irrigation, promotion of public health, and related improvements.

I urge that we give permanence to the community development program by giving the PACD the necessary power and appropriation to carry on with its task even more effectively.

## **I. War Veterans Affairs**

Our war veterans, war widows and orphans deserved our continuing concern. For the simplification of the administration of veterans' claim and benefits, we have consolidated all agencies in the Philippine Veterans Administration. It is expected that under the new dispensation the interest of the defenders of our country will be fully attended to including those related to their claims with U.S. government.

## **J. River Basin Resources and Flood Control**

The devastating floods in many areas in 1960 emphasized the need for revising our policies on reforestation and river basin resources development.

Last Year I stressed the importance of development plans to utilize to the maximum the potentials of our river basin resources. This is necessary, whether it be for power generation, for the irrigation of farm lands or for industry and home use, but particularly to arrest the recurrent ravages of floods.

I therefore urge that Congress adopt measures for the reorientation of public works with a view to combining the objectives of flood control, water conservation, industrial power generation into integrated multi-purpose projects.

### **III. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

#### **A. Improved Civil Service Morale**

The enforcement of the new Civil Service Law, including fair and necessary salary adjustments, has improved the morale of civil servants and developed a greater sense of responsibility in the public service. The constitutional injunction that appointments in the civil service shall be based on merit has been strengthened.

I reiterate the recommendation in my message of last year that the new Civil Service Act be improved by eliminating certain provisions apparently inconsistent with the Constitution and also other provisions which are vague, uncertain or incompatible with each other.

#### **B. Public Administration Upgraded**

Recognizing the need for upgrading the quality of public administration, executive and supervisory development seminars have been conducted. The beneficial effects of these programs have become evident in the increased efficiency of the various arms of the public service. The increasing appreciation for progressive management was climaxed recently by our sponsorship of the first general assembly of the Eastern Regional Organization on Public Administration.

#### **C. Policy on Government Corporations**

The government corporations continue to be worthy instruments of the government for industrial pioneering.

In pursuance of the policy of placing in the hands of private enterprise those corporations that have accomplished their pioneering role, I approved the sale of the Naga Cement Plant located in Naga, Cebu. In 1957 we sold the Bacnotan Cement Plant. The sale of the Maria Cristina Fertilizer Plant for P12 million has also been effected. The Cabinet has already approved the sale of the Insular Sugar Refinery at more than P6 million and is considering the liquidation of two textile mills of the National Development Company. The process will continue until ultimately the government is completely out of business.

#### **D. Work of Joint Legislative-Executive Tax Commission**

The Joint Legislative-Executive Tax Commission, created to improve our tax system, has already submitted legislative plans which deserve your serious consideration. These proposals meet the need for additional revenue, without increasing the average taxpayers' burden, and provide impetus for rapid economic development.

I am prepared to endorse any measure aimed at revising the Tariff and Custom Code, in harmony with the condition that obtain under the decontrol program and external trade. I also urge necessary revisions in the National Internal Revenue Code. Among the changes should be a scheme for the automatic retention of the share of the local governments in the national taxes concomitant with the policy of giving them greater economy.

### **IV. ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**

Our courts of justice have maintained in momentum in reducing delay in the disposition of judicial cases. With the increased jurisdiction granted in 1960 to municipal courts in chartered cities and justice of the peace courts, our higher courts have been relieved of the burden of petty litigations.

They were thus able to devote more time and effort to more important cases.

The Court of Industrial Relations and the Court of Agrarian Relations have done commendable work in settling controversies between labor and management, and between landowners and tenants. There is now industrial and agrarian peace. The Court of Tax Appeals has sped up decision on assessments made by the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

## **V. NATIONAL DEFENSE**

Our Armed Forces continue to play a vital role not only in the preservation of peace and order but also in our socio-economic activities. They helped beyond the call of duty in school building construction, in relief work during times of public calamities, even in land resettlement and rural development.

There has been a marked decrease in the personnel strength of the Armed Forces since 1953 without impairing its capability to maintain peace and order, carry on with military training and fulfill our international commitments. It is our constant endeavor to keep our National Defense organization abreast with the latest advances. Under the Mutual Defense Pact with the United States we are modernizing our armed forces particularly in relation to the new weapons and methods of warfare.

## **VI. FOREIGN RELATIONS**

Because of our independent foreign policy, we have gained new prestige in our own region of the world and in the international community. We are truly forging the true image of the Filipino nation. With rational firmness, we have accomplished much without painful disruptions or violent difficulties which normally follow the process.

The bonds of friendship and mutual interest which link the Philippines and the United States, our closet ally and friend, remain firm and enduring. This was remarkably dramatized by the visit here of President Eisenhower last year. On the questions of disarmament, cessation of nuclear tests, the peaceful uses of atomic energy, mutual security, regional defense and respect for the dignity of the human person, the Philippines stands with the free peoples of the world in unity of purpose.

But relations, however, cordial, cannot be entirely free from difficulties. It is to the credit of the Philippines and America, for instance, that wherever such difficulties have arisen, sincere efforts have been exerted to overcome them with fairness and justice.

It is in this spirit that I am happy to report to you that, in addition to the major agreements reached last year in the negotiations conducted between our Secretary of Foreign Affairs and the Ambassador of the United States, considerable progress has been achieved more recently on the highly sensitive question of criminal jurisdiction in relation to U.S. bases in the Philippines. I am confident that the remaining unsettled questions in the revision of the Military Bases Agreement will be resolved to the satisfaction of both parties during the war.

Progress has also been made in the current negotiation for the adjustment of the principal obligation and interest under the Romulo-Snyder Agreement. You are aware of the two separate bills under consideration in the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States Congress for the payment of the balance of our war damage claims. The hope that the United States Congress will finally act on those pending measures is quite bright. Furthermore, we will exert our utmost in the American Congress to make permanent the increase of our sugar quota by 500,000 tons now granted us on a temporary basis.

In the World Organization, we continued to support the stabilizing "presence" of the United Nations in troubled spots of the world, such as in Laos and the Congo. We strongly co-sponsored the declaration against the continuance of colonialism in all its form anywhere in the world.

Our policy of closer ties with Asia has also gained fresh momentum. We have accredited a diplomatic mission to Ceylon. We have just authorized a legation in Laos. We concluded with the Government of Indonesia an agreement for joint naval patrol of southern water. We have begun negotiation of a trade agreement with South Korea and will



soon meet with Pakistan for the same purpose. We are considering cultural accords with the Republic of China, Pakistan and the United Arab Republic. We have entered into an agreement for the mutual abolition of visa fees with South Korea and Israel. We are also at the stage of concluding a postal agreement with Japan.

At the gracious invitation of President Chiang kai Shek, I paid a most fruitful and rewarding visit to Taiwan during which we renewed the cordial ties that bind our two countries. I shall visit the Federation of Malaya next month.

Our panel of negotiations has also just signed the Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation with their Japanese counterparts. Considering the importance of the Treaty and its effect upon the general economy of our nation, it is my desire that the Treaty be subjected to a thorough scrutiny and exhaustive consideration by as many conceivable segments of our population as possible before it goes through the constitutional process for ratification. I express the fervent hope that the discussion of the Treaty shall be dispassionate and objective with an eye single to the best interest of the nation.

Recent developments and the perceivable trend of possibilities indicate that the problem which Communist China poses to the security of our area might assume a new proportion. It will do us well to asses carefully those possibilities with a view to determining their impact upon our policy towards Communist China and what measures we could devise alone or in cooperation with the free peoples or our region to meet the developing situation.

## **VII. REPARATIONS**

In the matter of procurement and disposition of reparations goods and services from Japan our country, as of November 30, 1960, has received a total of P198.3 million in machineries and equipment for public works, capital goods for government agencies and private entities, and services in the salvage of sunken vessels that clog our sea lanes.

The value of goods and services already contracted by our government, however, is P246 million and the Japanese Government has already paid to Japanese supplies the sum of P227.9 million. Therefore, based on the P225 million due from the Japanese Government during the first four and a half years of the Agreement, Japan has fully met her commitments to the Philippines.

The annual schedule of payments and allocations to the public and private sector is with a view of utilizing reparations payments in such a manner as shall assure the maximum benefits in an equitable and widespread a manner as possible. We set aside P5 million o develop the potential cottage and home industries and thereby provide more employment opportunities for the masses. This policy will be implemented annually as long as necessary. Furthermore, we are now seeing to it that only industrial projects which satisfy a system of industrial priorities should be allowed for procurement.

Effort is being exerted to make full use of the P250 million investment loan by lightening the terms and conditions under which this may be extended.

With a view of obtaining maximum benefits from reparations payments, the Reparations Law should be amended along lines already indicated in my last message.

## **VIII. YOUTH ORGANIZATION FOR CIVIC SERVICE**

The Filipino youth fired with ardent patriotism and raring to do something for their beloved fatherland should be rallied and organized for civic service. They can be immense help in solving the worsening youth delinquency problem. They are a definite asset in fighting Communism. They can be massive assistance, as once in the past, in keeping elections free, honest, and orderly. They can contributed effectively in our efforts for reforestation and against deforestation and also in the conservation of other natural resources. They can wield a tremendous influence for good in moral regeneration and in many other undertakings requiring mass action.

It is therefore recommended that legislation in this direction backed up by adequate financing be adopted.

## **IX. DRIVE AGAINST GRAFT AND CORRUPTION**

At any start of my Administration and again in my 1960 message on the State of the Nation, I pledged total war against graft and corruption in the public service although it is a matter of history that this problem was inherited from a previous regime. I mean to keep my pledge no matter at what cost. The campaign gained added vigor with the implementation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act. The Presidential Anti-Graft Committee has since been probing cases of unexplained wealth.

Various executive departments have initiated administrative cases numbering 21,992; 13,600 cases were decided with 9,547 convictions and 4,110 exonerations. Some 8335 case are pending decision. Criminal cases totaling 740 were filed. I can state with pride and certainty that this record is unprecedented in the annals of all previous administrations. Contrary to gratuitous allegations, I can say, and the record will bear me out, that we have taken action against all accused malefactors in the public service irrespective of whether they are "big fishes or small fries." I wish to reiterate anew that we cannot move in the dark. We can proceed only against those cases brought to light by civic-minded citizens and supported by evidence. We cannot act on the basis of generalities or on gossips peddled by "ugly wagging tongues."

I have urged all sectors of the Government as well as the public in general to help in the campaign by supplying us facts and proofs. Graft and corruption is a social problem which cannot be eradicated by mere lip service or mere wishful thinking or condemnatory language in some "corners."

In this connection the teaching of moral values should be further strengthened through the intensification of Character Education as a separate subject in the curricula of all public and private schools. I consider this emphasis of great value in our campaign against graft and corruption since it will imbue our school children with the concepts of honesty and righteousness at a time when their minds are still impressionable.

Let it sink into the conscience of society that it takes at least two to commit graft and corruption. The bribe giver is as guilty, if not more so, than the bribe taker. It is unfortunate, however that society only condemns the bribe taker and even idolizes the wealthy tempter. It is another ironic misfortune that the administration which does the dirty job of flushing out, identifying, exposing and punishing without fear or favor corruption in government, gets as its reward the reputation of being corrupt. If society does not correct this twisted attitude, the day will come when this social cancer will spread deep into the system of our body politics without any doctor that will have the courage to prescribe the remedy and lead the nation to salvation.

I therefore call upon the press, the radio and television to focus their floodlights upon the men who committed the corrupt act and not upon the administration that caught and punished the act. Let us not hide the identity of the corrupt behind generalities. Let us demand that the corrupt men answer for their criminal acts instead of pinning responsibility on President under that novel political heresy of "command responsibility."

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Congress, I have formulated for your consideration eighteen (18) important recommendations in the course of this message. But before I conclude permit me to tax your indulgence by proposing other recommendations of no less importance and urgency in abbreviated form as follows:

- (1) On the broad front of basic governmental reforms. I reiterate all the recommendations I have made for appropriate all amendments to the Constitution in my last message.
- (2) To accelerate our industrialization and the utilization of our vast natural resources, I recommend amendments to the petroleum, mining and corporation acts to make them conform with modern advances, problems and trends in leading mining countries;

(3) I recommend amendment of the tax exemption law to exempt specified basic industries from the payment of duties and taxes fixed capital requirement;

(4) I ask you to study the proper utilization of the proceeds from the margin levy to encourage maximum development of priority industries and push through more vigorously important public works to high economic value;

(5) The NASSCO charter has to be amended to permit the participation of the private sector in the corporation's integrated steel project;

(6) We must extend tariff protection to infant agricultural industries, such as coffee, cacao, citrus, peanuts, and others.

(7) For improved fiscal administration, I recommend the following measures:

(a) Suspension of the tax on capital gains provided such gains are plowed back to investment in industry;

(b) Extension of a preferential rate of income taxes to dividend earned on shares of stock;

(c) Provision be made for carry-over losses;

(d) Further modernization of the tax system by doing away with regressive taxes and by devising a more equitable distribution of the tax burden based on capacity to pay;

(e) Change the allotment base on internal revenue taxes and to effect the automatic retention of shares of local governments. And

(f) Adoption of a uniform and at the same time flexible and updatable real property assessment system.

In this connection I want to interject the observation that land values in and around industrial centers have increased even fifty times as high as, say, a decade ago, and yet their assessment values have remained stationary. Another observation is that when the government buys a real property for some public use, it pays a price ten or twenty times more than the assessed value. There should be a limit of the proportion between the assessed value and the expropriation value so that land assessment should not be brought down too low.

(8) Congressional appropriation of funds to complete the Rizal Centennial Shrine. Unhappy, private contributions for the purpose have run short of the total requirement, and we certainly owe it to the memory of our national hero to come to the rescue of this project and see it through to completion this year.

## **CONCLUSION**

Gentlemen, in my humble way I have outline the legislative task of the year. I have set he goals we should attain, and I have profound faith that we shall attain them with the united determination of Congress. But man is finite and God is infinite and eternal and so we need Him in all our national efforts. Let us therefore pray for His guidance and mercy and that He abide with us forever and fill our days with the abundance of His blessings.

“For His Kingdom is a Kingdom of all ages, and dominion endureth throughout all generations. They shall publish the memory of the abundance of His sweetness and shall rejoice in His Justice.” (Psalm 144)

With Him nothing is impossible; without Him nothing. I thank you.

## **PRESS STATEMENTS**

**Joint Statement of President Garcia and President Eisenhower at 7 30 a.m., Friday, June 20, Washington Time (8:30 p.m., Friday, June 20, Manila Time) at the conclusion of the Philippine Chief Executive's Three-Day visit in Washington, D.C.**

**JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED BY PRESIDENT GARCIA AND PRESIDENT EISENHOWER AT 7 30 A.M., FRIDAY, JUNE 20, WASHINGTON TIME (8:30 P.M., FRIDAY, JUNE 20, MANILA TIME) AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE PHILIPPINE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S THREE-DAY VISIT IN WASHINGTON, D.C.**

THE PRESIDENT of the United States and the President of the Republic of the Philippines today concluded the valuable discussions they have held over the past few days on matters of interest to both countries. These talks centered chiefly on United States—Philippines relations, but they also included an exchange of views on matters of international significance to both countries with special emphasis on Asia.

During his three-day visit President Garcia addressed a joint meeting of both Houses of the Congress, and he and members of his party conferred with the Vice-President, the Secretary of State, individual members of Congress, and other United States government officials. After leaving Washington President Garcia will visit other parts of the United States and will meet governmental, cultural, and business leaders.

## **I.**

The two Presidents reviewed the long history of friendship and cooperation between their countries and they expressed confidence that their respective peoples will continue to benefit from this close association in the future. Moreover, they recognized that similar cooperation among the nations of the free world had been effective in recent years in preventing overt aggression in the Far East and elsewhere in the world. The two Presidents pledged themselves to maintain the unity of strength and purpose between their countries and the other countries of the Western Pacific in order to meet any threats to peace and security that may arise.

The two Presidents reaffirmed their adherence to the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter. They recognized that through dedication to that Charter the nations of the world can progress toward the attainment of the universal ideal of peace “with justice based on the dignity of the individual. With this objective they will continue to support and encourage the activities of the United Nations Organization.

They noted that great progress has been achieved under SEATO in the strengthening of the Free World's defenses against Communist imperialism in Southeast Asia. They concurred that in the light of the continued threat of Communist military power in Asia, SEATO's defensive capability must be carefully maintained. Toward this end the United States will continue to assist in the development of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, in accordance with mutual security programs jointly approved with the Republic of the Philippines.

They reviewed, in this connection, the important role played by the Mutual Defense Pact between the Philippines and the United States. They agreed that the aggressive intentions and activities of Communism in the Far East and in Southeast Asia render the maintenance and strengthening of these defensive arrangements an absolute necessity. President Eisenhower made clear that, in accordance with these existing alliances and the deployments and dispositions thereunder, any armed attack against the Philippines would involve an attack against United States forces stationed there and against the United States and would instantly be repelled.

In the spirit of these alliances, and with particular reference to the problems affecting the military bases operated by the United States in the Philippines, they expressed mutual confidence that these questions would be resolved to the satisfaction of the two countries, having regard to the principle of sovereign equality and the vital requirements of an effective common defense.

## **II.**

The two Presidents reviewed progress toward economic development made in the Philippines over the past several years and examined the current economic problems with which that nation is faced. Economic discussions were also held between Philippine officials and representatives of the State and Treasury Departments, the Export-Import Bank, and the International Cooperation Administration. The Philippine officials outlined a long-term program for economic development. In view of the inability of the United States to anticipate accurately financial availabilities and relative requirements beyond the next twelve months, immediate emphasis was placed on meeting the initial requirements of the Philippine program.

For these initial requirements the Export-Import Bank informed the Philippine Government that it will establish a new line of credit of \$75-million for financing private and public development projects in the Philippines.

The Philippine Government was also informed that, subject to congressional action on the additional appropriations being requested, the Development Loan fund would examine specific projects submitted to it to determine whether they would merit development loan fund financing in an amount not to exceed \$50 million.

### **III.**

In the course of their talks, the two Presidents were deeply aware of the special significance of their meeting as the heads of state of two countries, one of which through the revolutionary process and by mutual agreement obtained its independence from the other. They realized that, in the context of present events, their meeting would provide a valuable object lesson on the relations of mutual respect and equal justice most appropriate to two countries, great or small, which share a common faith in freedom and democracy.

### **IV.**

President Eisenhower, and President Garcia concluded that the understanding reached, as well as the personal relationship established during this visit, will contribute significantly to the mutual good will and friendship which traditionally support Philippines-United States relations

(Sgd.) C. P. GARCIA  
DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Statement of President Garcia upon his arrival, at the Mats Terminal, Washington, D.C., June 18, 1958**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S STATEMENT UPON HIS ARRIVAL, AT THE MATS TERMINAL, WASHINGTON, D.C., WHERE HE WAS MET BY PRESIDENT EISENHOWER AND HIGH UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, JUNE 18, 1958**

MR. PRESIDENT, Mrs. Garcia and I would like to thank most warmly for your kindness in receiving us here today. Your gracious words of welcome have touched me deeply, and my heart is full. Any head of state who is thus welcomed in this lovely capital city of the free world would have this overwhelming sense of joy and pride. But for a president of the Philippines this acquires a special quality. I come not as a stranger to the land, and not merely as one of your many friends and allies. For I bring with me the affection of a grateful people with whom America has shared the priceless blessings of liberty, a nation that has stood loyally side by side with America and would do so again, to defend freedom in the world if ever the occasion arises. For me, therefore, this is a kind of spiritual homecoming. Your presence here, Mr. President, enhances this feeling. As one of the Great Americans who saw service in the Philippines, you are a living witness to the indestructible bond of common ideals that hold our two peoples together. I have come to give fresh assurance of our undying fidelity to those ideals, and I feel honored and happy that I can offer this assurance to you in person.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Statement of President Garcia on the Middle East situation, issued on July 21, 1958**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S STATEMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, ISSUED ON JULY 21, 1958**

FROM the moment the world was shocked with the news of the military coup in Iraq which reportedly resulted in the violent death of King Feisal, Prime Minister Nuri-as-Said, and Prince Abdul Illah, the Government and people of the Philippines have been watching with deep anxiety every development in that country as well as in Lebanon, Jordan, and the entire Middle East area.

As a people historically dedicated to the cause of world peace and firm adherence to an international regime of law and order, we cannot help but manifest our profound concern over these developments as constituting a serious threat to international security. We express the hope that the United Nations, acting through its appropriate agencies or organ, shall be able to meet the present crisis in the Middle East with firmness and wisdom, and that it could soon devise appropriate measures as are suitable and adequate to the exigencies of the situation, to the end that peace may be restored in the area and the peaceful processes of a regime of law and order upheld.

We shall instruct our representative to the United Nations to take such appropriate step and support such measures therein as are calculated to promote this end.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library



**Statement: President Garcia upon leaving Honolulu, July 1, 1958**

**Statement  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
Upon leaving Honolulu**

[Released to the Press, July 1, 1958]

AS I LEAVE Honolulu, the last American outpost in the Pacific, I wish to reiterate my most heartfelt gratitude and that of my 23 million countrymen for the warm reception accorded me and my party while on a state visit to the United States, for the further strengthening of P.I.-U.S. relations and for the loans to develop and bolster the economy of the Philippines.

President Eisenhower, the highest American officials, American businessmen and people from all walks of life, and the American press have demonstrated their sincere and kindly welcome and affection that has surpassed my anticipation. This has shown and reaffirmed the Philippine-American solidarity. If only for this reason, I can say that my visit to the United States has been most fruitful.

The initial economic development loans that were secured as a result of my visit will, I am sure, start off auspiciously the implementation of a three-year program which I presented to President Eisenhower, designed to stabilize and improve my country's economy. I have every reason to believe that this assistance will continue for three years until the objective is attained.

I wish to stress that in the joint session statement signed by President Eisenhower and myself after the conclusion of our talks, President Eisenhower made clear that "any armed attack against the Philippines would involve an attack against United States forces stationed there, and against the United States and would instantly be repelled." This is a reassurance to my people that America will stand resolutely by her word in carrying her part in the P.I.-U.S. Mutual Defense Pact.

In the name of the Filipino people, I again express deep gratitude to America and wish continued success in her leadership of the free world. Aloha and Mabuhay!

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

**Statement: President Garcia on the departure of President Eisenhower**

**Statement of President Carlos P. Garcia:**  
On the departure of President Eisenhower

[Issued on June 16, 1960]

MR. PRESIDENT:

THE time of parting always makes the visit of a friend too brief. Your stay with us has been brief literally. We hardly had time to do justice to your gracious visit. We can only wish that in the bigness of your heart you have found our humble hospitality the gesture we sincerely intended to be—a whole-hearted embrace to you who have honored our house and who have warmed our hearts:

Mr. President, in the name of the Filipino people and in my own, thank you for your visit to us and godspeed on your further journey in quest of the Golden Peace. We hope that here in the Philippines, the first stop in your itinerary, you confirmed once more what has always been here, sincere friendship and fraternal affection for your great nation—the American people.

It is a source of great joy for us that in you, the personification of America today, is a personal friend of our people—some one we know closely and intimately because of years association. All our sentiments and all our ideals related to the lofty cause of freedom and democracy blend with those of your people in happy concern.

In America and in the Philippines in these our times, freedom and democracy find expression to the greatest measure. Ours are two of the freest countries in the world. Would that in the near future all peoples and all the nations find too the boons of freedom and democracy to be enjoyed to the fullest measure;

That, you have made your mission. We wish you total success. As the champion of democracy, the United States of America, embarked in what you, Mr. President, termed “The Great Crusade.” The enterprise is yet far from ended. The crusade of peace with justice and of the true brotherhood of men in freedom still has to find the Holy Trail.

Here your friends, the Filipinos, have always been identified with the same cause as yours. Here humble efforts will continue to be exerted in its service. Here we will always stand for freedom and democracy. And here we will brook no dark shadows cast over it.

So once more, Mr. President, bon voyage and until we meet again. To you and your distinguished entourage, again, we say it is worthy of the leadership of the Free World. May God keep America and you, her sons, who breathe life to her ideals.

Goodbye, Mabuhay!

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1960). President Garcia issued the following statement on the departure of President Eisenhower today, June 16, 1960. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 56(25), 4211.

## **HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS**

**Remarks of President Garcia after his assumption to office to succeed the late President Magsaysay**

**Remarks  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
After his assumption to office as President to succeed  
the late President Ramon Magsaysay**

[Monday, March 18, 1957]

THE unexpected and most unfortunate demise of President Ramon Magsaysay has brought grief not only to our country but to the entire free world. President Magsaysay, since his assumption of the highest office of the land, had been an uncompromising champion of democracy in Asia. Thus, his death is definitely a loss to all freedom-loving peoples everywhere.

In this our moment of supreme national bereavement, I wish to ask our people to share with me the heavy burden which has been placed upon my shoulders by the Supreme Law-Giver who presides over the destinies of men and nations. In asking for the support and cooperation of the Filipino people, I appeal for sobriety, calmness, and dedication in the fulfillment of our common duty to God and Country for the great ideals for which' President; Magsaysay lived and died.

I realize only too well that the position of President of the Philippines carries with it tremendous responsibilities. Nevertheless, with the aid of Divine Providence, I accept; in all humility this difficult task upon taking my oath of office. With abiding faith in our people, I know that in a moment of crisis like this, they always rise equal to the situation. In the days that lie ahead, I will welcome honest and constructive criticism, if it will redound to the public good.

It shall be my solemn duty to carry on the great political program for which President Magsaysay and the Nacionalista party have given their all and their best.

I ask you then, fellow-countrymen, to lay aside all rancour and discord and help me carry on the task of preserving our land for God, democracy, liberty, and justice.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1957). President Carlos P. Garcia's remarks after his assumption of Office as President to succeed the late President Ramon Magsaysay, Monday afternoon, March 18, 1957. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 53(6), 1750.

## **Funeral Oration of former President Sergio Osmeña on Ramon Magsaysay**

### **Oration of Honorable Sergio Osmeña Former President of the Philippines At Ramon Magsaysay's funeral**

[Delivered on March 22, 1957]

THE death of Ramon Magsaysay has left us a profoundly sorrowing people. Yet, our grief seems somehow lightened by the fact that the entire free world sincerely shares our acute sense of irreparable loss. May I therefore venture to hope, as I once more extend my heartfelt condolence to his deeply grieving family, that the sharing of their heartbreaking grief by all our people, as well as by the free world, may somehow help them bear their bereavement.

Ramon Magsaysay burst into public life like a fresh wind after a long suffocating day. He died in the night while his people, once more enjoying security and once more full of hope, peacefully slept. They woke up in the morning to discover with a shock and to grieve with a broken heart over their sudden misfortune.

But when we have dried up our tears, we Filipinos shall realize that, while Ramon Magsaysay is indeed no more, the boons he has sought and achieved will remain forever with us. By his deeds he has left a better place in which to live, not only his own country but also much of the free world. Leaving others to enumerate and elaborate upon his many achievements, I shall limit myself only to tracing the outline of the vastness and massiveness of the debt to him of our people and of the other peoples of the free world.

Ramon Magsaysay is one of the immortal heroes of democracy. Not only did he save his own nation from being victimized, as many other nations have been victimized, by Communist subversion and aggression, but he also gave the free world an inspiration and an example to follow in its struggle unto death against ruthless Communism.

When Ramon Magsaysay broke the back of the Communist-led rebellion in the Philippines, he also convinced other peoples, similarly threatened, that they, too, could win over Communist aggression. His effective method of handling dissidents, with both force and understanding, has since been successfully followed by other countries with similar problems of subversion.

When Ramon Magsaysay was justly rewarded for his great labors by his election with an overwhelming majority to the highest position within the gift of his countrymen, he set about to apply yet another lesson he had learned from his experiences with rebellious masses. He focused the greatest effort and emphasis of his administration on rural reconstruction and rehabilitation, wisely conceiving this task the logical key to the country's entire economic and democratic progress.

Ramon Magsaysay passed away before his tremendous project had reached full fruition. Within his limited time, he nevertheless succeeded in giving it momentum and direction. There is now no stopping its progress and completion. It is so right, so logical, and so statesman-like that his memory and Divine Providence will guide us to its ultimate consummation.

Thus, in the death of Ramon Magsaysay, we have acquired a great heritage and a great responsibility. In following his example and contributing what we can to the long-range task of nation-building which he began, we not only shall erect, out of his own blueprint, an enduring monument to his memory, but shall also ourselves contribute to the happiness of our people, the progress of our democracy and the stature of our Republic.

In His infinite wisdom, the Almighty has removed from this life our beloved leader. Ramon Magsaysay is no more. But the fruits of his wise statesmanship will henceforward enrich our lives, and his memory will forever be gratefully enshrined in our hearts.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Osmeña, S. (1957). Former President Osmena's funeral oration on Ramon Magsaysay, March 22, 1957. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 53(6), 1752-1753.

**Funeral Oration of Senator Cipriano Primicias for the death of President Ramon Magsaysay**

**Funeral Oration  
of  
Honorable Cipriano Primicias  
Senator of the Philippines  
For the death of President Ramon Magsaysay**

[Delivered on March 22, 1957]

MR. PRESIDENT,  
MR. SENATE PRESIDENT,  
MR. SPEAKER,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE CONGRESS:

A BRIGHT, glorious meteor has just flashed its way across Philippine skies. Before its appearance in the firmament, all was dark, gloomy, and beset with forebodings. This meteor, this resplendent star, shed its light from on high and dispelled the prevailing gloom, bringing faith, hope, and charity once more into the disturbed hearts of his countrymen. For the light it gave, notwithstanding its all encompassing brilliance and unlike the usual planets in the heavens, was kind, gentle, and mellow; every single ray a fountainhead of gladness and encouragement to his people to achieve together in unity, with resoluteness and grim determination, their own well-being, prosperity and, happiness, under a regime of justice, liberty, and democracy.

This flashing meteor, this bright star, was engendered in our own Philippine firmament—incontestable proof of our own native genius and potentialities as a race. While there in heavens, transfixed for a time—alas, for only a very short time—by the Hand of God, its kindly light reached into and brightened the lives, not alone of our people, great numbers of whom were hitherto forgotten and without hope, nor alone of submerged peoples in Asia who were suspicious of democracy and were dallying with communism; but it has become a radiant beacon of hope for oppressed nations and peoples longing for liberty and freedom everywhere.

Like a flash it came and like a flash it burned itself out and faded away, leaving in its wake an anguished nation bowed in deep sorrow, and a world aghast and stunned in bewildered disbelief at so transient a passage.

This star—this meteor—is whom we used to know, love, and admire as Ramon Magsaysay,—the Star of Castillejos.

A recital of his good works and golden deeds for his people—especially the common people of whom God has created so many—has already been made with befitting brilliance by others before me within and without this Hall. After me, others too—countless others—will go on repeating them for years and years, by pen or by word of mouth, transmitted as a legend from father to son and from mother to daughter, until they shall have become blended into our folklore fit to be the subject of song, poetry, and plaintive refrain. But we, the living, who served with him with honor and were inspired by his pristine virtues, will always cherish the memory of his selfless dedication, missionary zeal, and indefatigable labors for the nation. For him, we can sing with the poet:

“The lives of great men all remind us We can make our lives sublime, And, departing, leave behind us Footprints on the sands of time.”

Him whom we know as Ramon Magsaysay is no more! With hearts heavy with grief and sobs full of anguish, we essay to recall him back to life in our tearful prayers, even offering our very own in exchange for his, if that were possible; but it is all to no avail. For the implacable law of life and death admits of no exception. But if ever the love, devotion, and prayers of a whole nation could make a man live on, then indeed Ramon Magsaysay should rise from the dead. We all know, however, it cannot be so. Let then his mortal remains return to mother Earth and be no more, but from every village and hamlet, from every hearth in the nation, mansion or humble hut, from the forests and the woodlands, from all the hills and mountains of our land, our valleys, lakes, rivers and streams, and from every Filipino heart let there swell in unison and in one huge plaintive refrain, in the beautiful language of our

fathers and in the sentimental strain of our *kundiman*, the saga of our endless love and respect for his memory which we shall enshrine for always in our hearts. Let the perfume of his great soul blend with the aura of our land, and let every melody, sweet aroma, beautiful color, the chirping of birds, the murmur of brooks, and every mother's lullaby and plaintive *kundiman* ever carry with it for always a sweet memory of him who in life loved and serve his people so well and above himself.

To his beloved family, we say with the poet: "Talk not of wasted affection, affection never was wasted." In the case of your beloved husband and father, his affection that you have lost with his passing has been regained and sown into the hearts of his countrymen, there to grow into beautiful bouquets of fragrant *sampaguitas*—tender and soft, yet stronger than steel,—that shall ever bind them together as a proud, strong, virile, industrious, and prosperous nation worthy to be inherited by future generations of our race.

You are not alone in your deep sorrow for his passing. Filipinos everywhere, within and without our national territory, and friendly nationals of other lands share with you the heaviness of your grief. This then will be your consolation: That Ramon Magsaysay has not died in vain; that he, in life, gave of himself wholly and unreservedly to his people, with complete dedication and without counting the cost:

"Who gives himself with his gift feeds three, Himself, his hungering neighbor, and Me."

*Source: Presidential Museum and Library*

Primicias, C. (1957). Funeral Oration of Senator Cipriano Primicias. March 22, 1957. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 53(6), 1756-1757.



**Response of Ramon Magsaysay, Jr. at the Necrological Services in honor of President Magsaysay**

**Response of  
Ramon Magsaysay, Jr.  
At the Necrological Services in honor of President Magsaysay**

[Delivered in Congress, March 22, 1957]

ON behalf of my mother and sisters, my grandparents, and other relatives, I thank the President and all officials of the government for condoling with us in this hour of sorrow. Every arrangement has been made so thoroughly and so well that our grave pain at the loss of our father has been eased to the greatest extent possible.

We have been touched most of all by the expressions of sorrow on the part of our people. For us, this is the greatest consolation of all.

This popular manifestation of affection is not only a consolation for us. We consider it also our greatest heritage from our father. For there can be no more valuable inheritance for those who are left behind than the thought that he who has gone was loved so deeply by all the people.

We therefore thank the people. And we ask them to remember our dear departed, as we shall remember him, by continuing to fight for the things for which he stood. He loved the people, he loved freedom, and he loved God. If we all continue to profess those loves, then he could not have died in vain.

I thank you.

*Source:* **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay Jr., R. (1957). Response of Ramon Magsaysay, Jr., at Necrological Services in Congress, March 22, 1957. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 53(3), 1756.

## **Funeral Oration of Senator Lorenzo Tañada for the death of President Ramon Magsaysay**

### **Funeral Oration of Honorable Lorenzo Tañada Senator of the Philippines For the death of President Ramon Magsaysay**

[Delivered on March 22, 1957]

THE inexorable hand of destiny has removed President Magsaysay from our midst and terminated his tenure on earth.

It shall be long before the people can recover from the shock of his tragic loss. It shall be much longer before history can assess his achievements. But the people know that his untimely death has left a void in their lives and in the life of the nation which time alone can fill.

The death of President Magsaysay will seem unreal for many days to come. It is not easy to forget a man whose simplicity and kindness have won the love of his people. To recount things for which they will remember him is difficult, for every man paints his own picture of a friend.

The free-world, which regarded him as “a valiant champion of freedom,” to put it in the words of President Eisenhower, mourns with us his “tragic death.”

At this time, one can only speak of salient facets of the life and career of President Magsaysay. History alone can completely unveil the monument of his or any other human achievement. Time alone can fully measure for us the magnitude and excellence of his contribution to the welfare and prosperity of the Philippines.

But one may perhaps anticipate time and history. Even now, just five days after his death, nay even while he was yet alive, certain things seemed already clear.

He labored hard to give the breath of life to the principle of popular rule. He made the people feel that the main and ultimate concern of the State is their welfare and well-being.

He dramatized his genuine affection for the common people by opening the gates of Malacañang to them. That palatial structure, for centuries a forbidding symbol of alien authority, became to all intents and purposes, the people's temple.

In his consuming desire to interlace his life with those of the common people, he disregarded security measures designed for his personal protection.

He restored the confidence of the people in democratic processes by bringing the Government closer to them.

It is symbolic that this man of action, this man of the masses, died not languidly in the Palace but quickly in a comparatively unexplored forest accessible only to humble mountain villagers.

From the welter of official and press comments abroad on the significance of the passing of President Magsaysay, one consistent note emerges—the uniform feeling among the free nations that democracy and freedom have lost a great and unrelenting fighter against communism. That feeling is at once a recognition and a tribute. It is an earnest of history's final place of honor for Magsaysay as the one leader in Asia to achieve a decisive victory against the forces of communism. Even for this victory alone our people should feel proud and eternally grateful. That victory, in retrospect, assumes compelling moral grandeur, for it is clearly and strikingly set against the backdrop of the darkest days of our struggle against Communism. By defeating the Huks, who had taken up arms against constituted

authority and who are on a rampage of terror and destruction to implant here a godless ideology completely contrary to our free way of life, Magsaysay and the soldiers he led not only restored peace and order in our country but also upset the timetable of communist aggression and expansion in Asia.

It fell to my lot in 1953 to take part in the events that led to the emergence of Ramon Magsaysay as a candidate for president and to his subsequent election as the third President of our Republic. As will be recalled, that was a crucial year in our national history. Philippine democracy was hanging precariously in the balance. Popular discontent with the incumbent Administration had taken on the aspect of popular cynicism about the efficacy and future of our system of democratic government. The unprecedented victory that the people gave him and his zealous performance of his duties, ushered a new era of popular faith and trust in the government.

In a democracy such as ours, differences of opinion at all levels of popular thought and sentiment are inevitable. Indeed, as one writer has observed: The essence of democracy lies in: "Agreeing to disagree; disagreeing to agree." Consequently, it was not unnatural that we in the opposition at times found our views on public questions at variance with those of President Magsaysay. But even as we disagreed with him, we did not question his sincerity of purpose.

Aside from praying, there is nothing we can now do or say that can assuage the pain and anguish of our people who all feel profoundly that they have lost a friend and a champion.

There is also nothing we can now do or say that can lighten the burden of grief that weighs heavily on the hearts of his intimates and loved ones. Someone very dear to them, someone they need, has taken leave of this life, and no power on earth can compensate them for their incalculable loss.

Yet, all of us who grieve over his passing may take comfort in the thought that he has left us a valuable legacy of public service consecrated to the upliftment and welfare of the people and the defense of the free world.

It is, then, in a spirit of appreciation for this imperishable legacy that we say to Ramon Magsaysay: "Farewell, and may you rest in peace in the grace of God!"

*Source: Presidential Museum and Library*

Tañada, L. (1957). Senator Lorenzo Tañada's funeral oration, March 22, 1957. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 53(6), 1754-1755.

**Oration of President Garcia at Necrological Services for the late President Magsaysay, March 26, 1957**

**Oration  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At Necrological Services for the Late President Magsaysay**

*[Delivered at Malolos, Bulacan on March 26, 1957]*

WHEN our beloved President Magsaysay met his tragic death on a lonely, moon-bathed hilltop in Cebu, he was on board the airplane *Mt. Pinatubo*, named after a mountain in his home province of Zambales. After this tragic accident, when it came time to bring back home to Manila the mortal remains of this man beloved of his people, President Magsaysay's last flight was made on board a plane named *Bulacan*. I see more than a meaningless coincidence in this sequence of events. I am convinced it symbolizes the President's abiding love and concern for this province of Bulacan—a love and concern which he manifested many times in many ways, as has been recounted by the speakers before me and which was perhaps surpassed only by his deep feeling for his own home province.

Yet, so uniform and universal was President Magsaysay's concern for the welfare of the masses of this country, so unsparring was he in his efforts to help all the people that there is no longer any province in the Philippines that can exclusively claim him as its own. I even doubt that we Filipinos can now say he belongs only to us. The tributes that have been paid to him by the nations of the free world and the sense of bereavement they have felt, are eloquent testimony that his life and his works have helped and affected them no less than they have dictated the course of our history. Truly he belongs now to all who love freedom; to all who uphold human dignity; to all who abhor totalitarianism and the oppression of the human spirit.

The torrential outpouring of an entire nation's love and respect which we witnessed in President Magsaysay's burial last week must still be fresh in the minds of all of us. To understand why he was so revered in death, we need only to recall what he accomplished in life. President Magsaysay brought to the government a quality which informed and inspired its every act and policy. This quality was a sincere and passionate desire to lift the masses to the uplands of social, economic, and political dignity. It was an obsession to provide them with every opportunity to help themselves.

This quality was reflected in every aspect and activity of government. It was reflected in the budget, which disbursed the largest sums for those operations, such as education, health, and peace and order in the countryside, which touched most intimately the lives of the masses. It was reflected in the day-to-day business of government, which saw every office and official extend priority consideration to the needs and problems of the small man. For he who had less in life, President Magsaysay believed, must have more in law, more in government. It was reflected in every utterance, every act, every decision of the President himself, the highest magistrate in the government. All of us know President Magsaysay was prodigal in giving of his time, talents, and energies in the service of the common people.

To say that President Magsaysay's program for the masses indicated merely a paternal attitude towards his people or an emotional approach to government would be to misread completely its role in history. The program he pursued and prosecuted with such vigor was based on fundamental principles of government and practical political realities. This is hardly surprising, for Presidential Magsaysay was a fundamentalist who believed in first things first and who was a hard-headed political realist. He knew the nation could not move forward as long as the majority of the people were mired in the stagnation of economic misery and want. He knew that the political integrity of the Republic could not be preserved of social unrest and dissatisfaction, for it would then become easy prey to alien-inspired subversion and infiltration. He knew that economic development depended on the creation of a strong and sizeable middle class that would provide a market for the products of the factories and industrial plants. He knew political stability required the political emancipation and awakening of the masses.

No one can dispute the soundness of these principles in which President Magsaysay anchored his program of government. I wish therefore to repeat what I had occasion to say in Nueva Ecija yesterday—that I will carry on faithfully and forcefully his program and policies, emphasizing as he did the improvement of the living condition of the masses. I will do this not only because I consider my administration a continuation of his own but more so because I also believe in the soundness, wisdom, efficacy of his program.

I realize that you, the people of Bulacan, earnestly desire that some monument or memorial be built to perpetuate the memory of our beloved President Magsaysay. So does the rest of the Filipino people; so do I. We can build such a monument—one that will outlast marble and granite and will endure to the end of time. The monument we can build to his memory is a Philippines strong, stable, and prosperous, from which the specter of want and hunger has been banished and in which opportunity has replaced stagnation, hope, and despair. We shall build this monument— you and I—on the foundation he has laid—the social, economic, political, and spiritual advancement of the masses of our people.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

## A Proclamation

SULTANATE OF SULU  
DAKUL BAHNA MAIMBUNG  
SULU, PHILIPPINES

### A PROCLAMATION<sup>27</sup>

WHEREAS on the 22nd day of January, 1878, Sri Paduka Maulana Al Sultan Mohammen Jamalul Alam, our royal predecessor, executed that certain contract of lease with Gustavus Baron de Overbeck of Hongkong and Alfred Dent, Esquire of London, who acted as representatives of a British Company, over the territories of the Sultanate of Sulu in North Borneo, as follows:

“The mainland of the Island of Borneo, commencing from the Pandasan River on the west and thence along the whole east coast as far as the Sibuku River on the south, and including all territories, on the Pandasan River and in the coastal area, known as Paitan, Sugut, Banggai, Lahuk, Sandakan, China-batangan, Mumiang, and all other territories and coastal lands to the south, bordering on Darvel Bay and as far as the Sibuku River, together with all the islands which lie within nine miles from the coast.”

WHEREAS, our interest as well as those of our loyal subjects require that the said lease be terminated and our sovereignty over the leased area be forthwith reestablished so that our people may henceforth enjoy the blessings of freedom and the enjoyment of the fruits of their native soil;

NOW THEREFORE, in the exercise of my sovereign rights as Sultan of Sulu and legal representative of the heirs of Sri Paduka Maulana Al Sultan Mohammed Jamalul Alam, son of Sri Paduka Marhum Al Sultan Mohammed Pulalun, I have declared and do hereby declare the termination of the said lease in favor of Gustavus Baron de Overbeck and Alfred Dent, their heirs and assigns, effective the 22nd day of January, 1958, and that from and after that date all the lands covered by the said lease shall be deemed restituted thenceforth to the Sultanate of Sulu.

Done at Dakul, Maimbung, Sulu, Philippines this 25th day of November, 1957.

(Sgd.) MUHAMMAD ESMAIL KIRAM  
*Sultan of Sulu*

For himself and in behalf of the  
heirs of Sultan MOHAMMAD JAMALUL ALAM

Copy Furnished:

British North Borneo Company  
Jesselton, North Borneo

British North Borneo Company  
London, England

The British Embassy  
Manila, Philippines

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
London, England

The Secretary of Foreign Affairs  
Manila, Philippines

The Secretary-General  
United Nations Assembly  
New York

(Stamp of the Dry Seal of  
the Sultanate of Sulu)

**FOOTNOTE:**

<sup>27</sup>Considering that sovereignty over North Borneo has remained vested in the Sultanate of Sulu (as recognized by Britain in the Royal Charter of November 1, 1881 and in the letter of Lord Granville to Mr. Morier of Jan. 7, 1882, page 112), and considering further that the North Borneo Cession Order in 1946 constitutes an unwarranted assumption of sovereign rights by the British Crown and a repudiation of the contract of lease of 1878, which merely ceded or gave leasehold rights to Overbeck and Dent, it is justified that the Sultan of Sulu issued a proclamation terminating the lease of 1878.

*Source: Philippine Claim to North Borneo, Vol. I*

**Exchange of notes constituting an agreement between the Republic of the Philippines and the United States of America relating to the Establishment of Mutual Defense Board and the assignment of Military Liaison Officer, May 15, 1958.**

**EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MUTUAL DEFENSE BOARD AND THE ASSIGNMENT OF MILITARY LIAISON OFFICERS. Manila, May 15, 1958.**

*Note: The Agreement entered into force, May 15, 1958.*

Reference: **This Agreement is also published in 316 UNTS. p. 163.**

**I**

*The American Ambassador to the Philippine Acting Secretary for  
Foreign Affairs*

No. 1152

Manila, May 15, 1958

Excellency:

I have the honor to refer to discussions which have recently taken place concerning the mutual desire of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the United States to develop measures or arrangements which would enable the two Governments, through liaison and consultation on military matters of mutual concern by their appropriate military representatives, to carry out more effectively the specified purposes and objectives of the security and defense agreements which have been entered into between the two countries and thereby improve and enhance their common defense; and to confirm the understandings reached as a result of those discussions, as follows:

- 1) There is established of Foreign Ministers provided by the Mutual Defense Treaty a permanent Philippine-United States Mutual Defense Board with terms of reference as set forth in Annex A, which is made an integral part of this agreement; and
- 2) There shall be assigned a Philippine Military Liaison Officer to the staff of the Base Commander of major military bases used by the United States and the Liaison Officer shall have terms of reference as set forth in Annex B, which is made an integral part of this agreement.

**PHILIPPINE TREATY SERIES**

If the foregoing is acceptable to Your Excellency's Government, I have the honor to propose that this note and Your Excellency's reply indicating concurrence shall constitute an agreement between our two Governments on this matter.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Charles E. Bohlen

Enclosures:



1. Annex A—Philippine United States Mutual Defense Board;
2. Annex B—Philippine Military Liaison Officer.

His Excellency  
Acting Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Felixberto

M.

Serrano

## ANNEX A

### PHILIPPINE-UNITED STATES MUTUAL DEFENSE BOARD

#### *1. Establishment of the Board*

In consonance with the mutual desire of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the United States to implement more effectively certain provisions of existing defense agreements between the two countries there is hereby established under the Philippine-United States Council of Foreign Ministers a permanent Philippine-United States Mutual Defense Board with headquarters at Manila. The Board shall report to the Council through the latter's military representatives.

#### *2. Purpose*

The purpose of this Board is to provide continuing intergovernmental machinery for direct liaison and consultation between appropriate Philippine and United States authorities on military matters of mutual concern so as to develop and improve, through continuing military cooperation, the common defense of the two sovereign countries.

#### *3. Composition of the Board*

a. The Board shall be composed of:

(1) For the Philippines:

(a) Co-chairman of the Board: The Chief of Staff, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, or a Flag or General Officer designated by him.

### AGREEMENT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF MUTUAL DEFENSE BOARD WITH THE UNITED STATES

(b) Members of the Board: Chief, Philippine Constabulary; Commanding General, Philippine Army; Commanding General Philippine Air Force; and Flag Officer in Command, Philippine Navy of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

(2) For the United States:

(a) Co-chairman of the Board: The United States Military Representative of the Council, or a Flag or General Officer designated by him.

(b) Members of the Board: The senior United States Service representatives of the Army, Navy and Air Force on duty in the Philippines and, if not already represented, the Chief, Joint United States Military Advisory Group.

b. The Board and the members' thereof may be assisted by such staff, military or civilian, as they consider appropriate.

#### *4. Terms of Reference*

The terms of reference of the Board shall be to consider, and by agreement between the Co-chairmen, to decide on matters within its competence as may be established by agreed policies and procedures, or when necessary, to recommend to their respective Governments how best to resolve in the mutual interest of the two sovereign countries such problems as may arise in connection with:

- a. Working relationships with regard to specific matters enumerated in or arising under the Military Bases Agreement of 1947 which call for joint consultation and co-operation and/or such other matters as the Philippine-United States Council of Foreign Ministers or their Military Representatives may direct the Board to consider.
- b. The preparation of joint outlined plans for the development of a system of defensive military bases in the Philippines as provided in Article II, paragraph 2 of the Military Bases Agreement of 1947.
- c. The correlation, in accordance with existing laws and policies of the respective Governments, of military matters of mutual concern which arise from the operation of the Philippine-United States Mutual Defense Treaty, the Military Bases Agreement and the Military Assistance Agreement.

#### *5. Frequency of Meetings*

The Board shall meet at the call of either Co-chairman, but in any event regular meetings will be held at least once a month.

#### *6. Conduct of Meetings*

All meetings of the Board shall be held in executive session. The release of information concerning the decisions or activities of the Board shall be as mutually agreed upon by the Co-chairmen of the Board.

#### *7. Joint Military Secretariat*

The Joint Military Secretariat of the Board will be composed of such number of Philippine and United States personnel as may be mutually agreed upon by the Mutual Defense Board and will perform such specific duties as may be directed by the Board. The provision of necessary clerical and administrative support shall be arranged by the Board.

#### *8. Offices of the Board*

The Philippine Government shall provide suitable offices for the Board.

The office of the Joint Military Secretariat, with the permanent records of the Board will be maintained in these offices.

### ANNEX B

#### PHILIPPINE MILITARY LIAISON OFFICER

##### *1. Assignment and Selection*

A Philippine Military Liaison Officer shall be assigned to the staff of the Base Commander of the United States Naval Station, Sangley Point; United States Naval Base Subic Bay; Clark Air Base; and such other major military used by the United States as may be mutually agreed by the United States Mutual Defense Board. These officers shall be designated by the Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines, and assigned by the Philippine-United

States Mutual Defense Board to the United States Base Commander concerned. As Philippine military officers, they will continue to be under the administration of the Philippine Co-chairman of the Board.

*2. Duties of the Philippine Military Liaison Officer Assigned to the  
Staff of the United States Base Commander*

He will:

- a. Establish a Military Liaison Office for the performance of normal liaison with the Base Commander.
- b. Cooperate with the Base Commander by advice, suggestion and/or other appropriate action to assure observance of Philippine law and regulations within the base.
- c. Advise the Base Commander concerning problems involving Philippine nationals and residents on the base, and the day-to-day relationships between the Base Commander and such nationals and residents.
- d. Be the point of contact between the officials of the national, provincial, and municipal agencies and the base authorities to facilitate the performance of

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BOARD WITH THE UNITED STATES

specific tasks of such agencies in the implementation of Philippine laws and regulations within the base.

- e. Assist the Base Commander, as appropriate, in implementing actions of the Philippine-United States Mutual Defense Board.
- f. Perform such other liaison duties as may be assigned to him by the Philippine-United States Mutual Defense Board.
- g. Promote close cooperation, understanding, and harmonious relationships among all concerned.

*3. Qualifications of the Philippine Military Liaison Officer*

His qualifications and grade shall be left to the determination of the Philippine-United States Mutual Defense Board.

*4. Reports*

The Philippine Military Liaison Officer will submit such reports as may be required by the Philippine-United States Mutual Defense Board through the Joint Military Secretariat of that Board, furnishing copies thereof to the Base Commander.

*5. Administrative Support*

The United States Base Commander will:

- a. Provide a suitable office for the Philippine Military Liaison Officer on the Base.
- b. Provide the Philippine Military Liaison Officer with appropriate clerical and administrative support, to include quarters.

*The Philippine Acting Secretary for Foreign Affairs to the American Ambassador*

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

No. 1397-58

Manila, May 15, 1958

Excellency

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note No. 1152 of May 15th making reference to discussions which have recently taken place

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concerning the mutual desire of the Government of the Republic of the Phil-government of the United States of America to develop measures which would enable the two Governments, through liaison and consultation on military matters of mutual concern by their appropriate military representatives, to carry out more effectively the specified purposes and objectives to the security and defense agreements which have been entered into between our two countries and thereby improve and enhance their common defense, and proposing that an agreement be made confirming the understandings reached as a result of those discussions, as follows:

*[See note I]*

I have the honor to state that the Government of the Republic of the Philippines approves the provisions or terms of reference set forth in the documents annexed to Your Excellency's note and marked as "Annex A" and "Annex B", respectively, and agrees that your note and its enclosures, together with this reply, shall be regarded as constituting an agreement between our two Governments on this matter.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

Felixberto M. Serrano  
Acting Secretary

His Excellency Charles E. Bohlen  
American Ambassador  
Manila

*Source:* **House of Representatives, Legislative Library**

**Remarks of His Excellency Dwight D. Eisenhower President of the United States of America, upon the arrival of President Carlos P. Garcia of the Philippines at the Washington National Airport, June 17, 1958**

**Remarks of His Excellency Dwight D. Eisenhower President of the United States of America, upon the arrival of President Carlos P. Garcia of the Philippines at the Washington National Airport, June 17, 1958**

President Garcia, Madam Garcia, and all members of the party that are accompanying you to this country today:

First, may I have the privilege of extending to you a very warm welcome from this government and from its people. In saying this, there is on my part far more of personal sentiment than would normally be the case.

As you may recall—from the years 1935, when the Philippines first became a commonwealth—and until the beginning of 1940, I served not only in your country, but as a subordinate on General MacArthur's staff. I served the Philippine government by assignment from this government. It was a very priceless privilege. It was an opportunity to learn something of your country, its people, its islands, its economy, its political formation. On top of that I formed many warm friendships that endure to this day.

I thought and I still believe Mr. Quezon was a great leader with a great vision. I still regret that he is not with us today to join with the people that are in this audience—to welcome you and to say he is glad to see the President of an independent Philippines coming over here to meet in the Capital City of our country so many of the people here that I hope he will find both interesting and possibly enjoyable.

Thank you for coming with us—to all members of your party—and greetings to your people through you.

Thank you.

*Note: President Garcia responded as follows:*

*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

*Mrs. Garcia and I would like to thank you most warmly for this kindness of receiving us here today. I would like to state, Mr. President, that this demonstration of kindness, and I would say kinship, has touched me to the quick.*

*Any head of state that is thus welcomed to his lovely city, which is now considered the capital city of the free world, will have that overwhelming sense of joy and pride. But for a President of the Philippines this feeling acquires a special quality. For I come here not as a stranger, not merely as one of your many friends and allies, but I come bearing with me the affection of a grateful people whom you have served so well and so long.*

*This is a feeling that I have today, Mr. President, that I do not come here with any other feeling but that of a spiritual homecoming and your presence has indeed enhanced that feeling.*

*As one of the great Americans that saw service in our country, you are a living witness to the indissoluble bond of common ideals that bind our two peoples together. I have come to make a fresh assurance of our people's undying fidelity to those ideals, and I am happy and honored to be able to present to you this reassurance in person.*

*Thank you.*

Citation: Dwight D. Eisenhower: "Remarks of Welcome to President Garcia of the Philippines at the Washington National Airport.," June 17, 1958. Online by Gerhard Peters and John T. Woolley, The American Presidency Project.

**Source: The American Presidency Project**



**Response of President Garcia to a speech delivered by President Eisenhower at a state dinner given at the White House 9:00 a.m., Manila Time (June 18), in honor of the visiting Philippine Chief Executive**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S RESPONSE TO A SPEECH DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT EISENHOWER AT A STATE DINNER GIVEN AT THE WHITE HOUSE 9:00 A.M., MANILA TIME (JUNE 18), IN HONOR OF THE VISITING PHILIPPINE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

MR. PRESIDENT, MRS. EISENHOWER,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

WASHINGTON at this time of the year is so very much like Manila that one feels instantly at home. You, Mr. President and Mrs. Eisenhower, have sat at many dinners in Malacañang, and you will remember the verdant grass and the giant Acacia trees on the lawn, the gumamela and the hisbiscus bushes in full bloom, and just outside the window, the Pasig River rushing to its rendezvous with the sea. I would not doubt that while you have dined in many of the world's great castles and palaces, memory must have brought you often to Malacañang-by-the-Pasig.

There are two things, we have there that you must miss: by night, the mysterious fragrance of the night-flower, *dama de noche*, which fills the air; and by day, the nine-hole golf course on Malacañang Park, just two minutes by launch across the river. I regret to have to confess that I never have occasion to use the golf course, being myself strictly an indoors man whose best form of relaxation is a game of chess.

Just as you and Mrs. Eisenhower would feel at home in Manila, so Mrs. Garcia and I feel very much at home here. We sense in your gracious hospitality something more than the customary formalities which a state dinner usually affords. There is a feeling of kindship here, arising from an awareness of shared experience, sacrifice, and ideals.

In this awareness, I wish to thank you, Mr. President and Mrs. Eisenhower, for this splendid dinner and for your very kind words.

May I invite you, Ladies and Gentlemen, to drink to the health of the President of the United States.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Response of President Garcia to a speech delivered by Secretary Dulles at a state dinner given at the Pan American Union, Wednesday Evening, June 18 (Thursday Evening, June 19, Manila Time), in honor of President and Mrs. Garcia**

**PRESIDENT GARCIA'S RESPONSE TO A SPEECH DELIVERED BY SECRETARY DULLES AT A STATE DINNER GIVEN AT THE PAN AMERICAN UNION, WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 18 (THURSDAY EVENING, JUNE 19, MANILA TIME), IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT AND MRS. GARCIA**

IT GIVES Mrs. Garcia and me special pleasure to be here at this splendid dinner tonight. Secretary and Mrs. Dulles are old friends and colleagues with whom, for some years past, we have travelled the same circuit in Asia and occasionally also in America and Europe. We have sat together at the same table many times in many cities whether in conference or at dinner, and we have listened patiently to each other's speeches.

I might say that if we stood up from all those tables with our friendship and our digestions unimpaired, it was mainly for the reason that we rarely disagreed on anything and never on issues vital to our common interests.

It has been said that Secretary Dulles is the most travelled American secretary of state in history. I hope he continues to maintain this record, because we in the Philippines, like your other allies in Asia, would sorely miss him if he stopped coming over to see us.

I know that Secretary Dulles is cordially disliked in some places, like Moscow and Peiping, for example. But that is the true measure of his importance and achievement. The Communists dislike him because it was his vision and his courage that made SEATO possible. They dislike him because they suspect him to be the only foreign minister of a great power whom they cannot frighten by threats or beguile by their honeyed talk of peaceful co-existence. Some critics among our western allies have complained that he is too inflexible, but we the small countries that have known at first hand the infinite capacity of the enemy for deceit and ruthlessness consider this inflexibility as the very armor and shield of our freedom.

I dare to predict that if the free world survives and over-comes the present massive threat of the enemy, a substantial share of the credit will go to the great American statesman who is the host tonight.

Ladies and gentlemen, I invite you to drink to a toast to the health of Secretary Dulles.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library



**Response of President Garcia to the remarks of President Eisenhower, June 1960 RESPONSE OF PRESIDENT GARCIA TO THE REMARKS OF PRESIDENT EISENHOWER AT THE U.S. EMBASSY DINNER**

MR. PRESIDENT:

I AM grateful to you for your kind and generous words. If your visit to the Philippines, these three days that you have been with us, the acclaim that you have received from the cast and unprecedented multitudes wherever you have been seen, the spontaneous demonstrations from our people of their esteem and admiration for you, have given you a spiritual lift, Mr. President, you have made us very happy indeed.

The hundreds of thousands of smiling Filipino faces that were turned towards you had only one message. They saw in you the image of the American people. The nuances of international politics they care very little about. But they know that the United States is engaged in a struggle against a danger that threatens their country, too. They know America is their friend. Many of them are still alive who fought for American ideals of freedom and democracy which are also ours, in Bataan and Corregidor as did their forbears in Tirad Pass and Balintawak. In your person they saw embodied the prestige and principles of the United States. In a mass plebiscite of unprecedented popular demonstration they once more cast their vote of confidence in the United States.

You have seen a people that have risen out of the debris of war and have established a democratic government and have maintained it despite the difficulties and handicaps of post-war reconstruction. You saw Manila soon after the Second World War and you compared the devastation as second only to Warsaw. The grit and determination of our people you have seen as evidenced by the material progress of our country. Much remains to be done but we are happy that you came and saw what has been accomplished and you will return to the United States better acquainted with our needs and our problems.

Your bold venture in personal diplomacy we admire. It is in your character to date where others would hesitate. But our harassed world needs venturesome spirits with the vision and the courage to blaze new trails to achieve the peace humanity must have if we are to survive. Our people are behind you in your purposeful undertaking and we wish you, Mr. President, Godspeed.

In a few moments you will be departing from our shores. You are going forward in your adventure because in the words of President Theodore Roosevelt you are among those who do not “shrink from the hard contest, where men must win at the hazard of their lives and at the risk of all they hold dear.” That is the courage and the statesmanship that ‘is the need of today and you go, Mr. President, with the hopes and the best wishes and the prayers of the Filipino people. Ladies and Gentlemen: Let us drink to the health of the traveling symbol of the highest values that free men treasure: freedom, the dignity of the human individual, and peace—the President of the United States.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Address of His Excellency Dwight D. Eisenhower before a Joint Session of the Philippine Senate and House of Representatives, June 15, 1960**

**Address of His Excellency Dwight D. Eisenhower before a joint session of the Philippine Senate and House of Representatives.**

*June 15, 1960*

Mr. President of the Senate, Mr. Speaker of the House, Members of the Congress, distinguished guests, and my friends:

I am keenly sensible of the high honor this assembled body has paid to me and to my country by inviting me to be present here and to address this body, a body representing the political leadership of a great Republic in the Asian sector. I am indeed overwhelmed by your kindness and I can say only mabuhay.

You will understand the flood of memories that swept over me on coming back to this land, where I feel that I am revisiting an old home and old friends and renewing ties of long standing.

Here my wife and I spent four happy years, making friendships that we shall ever cherish. Here our son went to school and grew into young manhood. Here I saw the first beginnings of this Republic and worked with men whose vision of greatness for the people of the Philippines has been matched by its realization.

Through many days I could talk of life as I knew it here a quarter of a century ago. for hours on end I could make comparisons of what was in those days and what is now. But I have only minutes in which I can address myself to this subject.

Even in the short space I have been here, however, I have been struck by the vigor and progress that is evident everywhere. I see around me a city reconstructed out of the havoc and destruction of a world war. I know of the Binga Dam; the Maria Cristina Power and Industrial Complex; the Mindanao highway system; rural electrification; the disappearance of epidemic diseases; the amazing growth of Manila industry.

Everywhere is inescapable physical evidence of energy and dedication and a surging faith in the future. But of deeper significance is the creation here of a functioning democracy—a sovereign people directing their own destinies; a sovereign people concerned with their responsibilities in the community of nations. Those responsibilities you have discharged magnificently even as you toiled to rebuild and to glorify your own land.

Certainly, we Americans salute Filipino participation in the Korean war; the example set the whole free world by the Filipino nurses and doctors who went to Laos and to Viet Nam on Operation Brotherhood; your contribution to SEATO and the defense of your neighbors against aggression; your charter membership and dynamic leadership in the United Nations; your active efforts to achieve closer cultural and economic relations with other Southeast Asian countries.

The stature of the Republic of the Philippines on the world scene is the creation of its own people—of their skill; their imagination; their courage; and, above all, their commitment to freedom. But their aspirations would have gone unrealized were they not animated by a spirit of nationalism, of a patriotic love of their own land and its independence, which united and directed them in their efforts.

This spirit was described by your late great leader and my personal friend, Manuel Quezon, when he with great eloquence said: “Rightly conceived, felt and practiced, nationalism is a tremendous force for good. It strengthens and solidifies a nation. It preserves the best traditions of the past and adds zest to the ambition of enlarging the inheritance of the people. It is, therefore, a dynamic urge for continuous self-improvement. In fine, it enriches the sum total of mankind’s cultural, moral, and material possessions through the individual and characteristic contribution of each people.”

Significantly, President Quezon had this caution to offer, "So long as the nationalistic sentiment is not fostered to the point where a people forgets that it forms a part of the human family; that the good of mankind should be the ultimate aim of each and every nation; and that conflicting national interests are only temporary; and that there is always a just formula for adjusting them—nationalism then," he said, "is a noble, elevating and most beneficial sentiment."

In these words of clarity and timeless wisdom, President Quezon spoke a message forever applicable to human affairs, particularly fitted to the circumstances of this era.

Nationalism is a mighty and a relentless force. No conspiracy of power, no compulsion of arms can stifle it forever. The constructive nationalism defined by President Quezon is a noble, persistent, fiery inspiration; essential to the development of a young nation. Within its ideal my own country since its earliest days has striven to achieve the American dream and destiny. We respect this quality in our sister nation.

Communist leaders fear constructive nationalism as a mortal foe. This fear is evident in the continuing efforts of the Communist conspiracy to penetrate nationalist movements, to pervert them, and to pirate them for their own evil objectives.

To dominate—if they can—the eternal impulse of national patriotism, they use force and threats of force, subversion and bribery, propaganda and spurious promises. They deny the dignity of men and have subjected many millions to the execution of master plans dictated in faraway places.

Communism demands subservience to a single ideology, to a straitjacket of ideas and approaches and methods. freedom of individuals or nations, to them is intolerable. But free men, free nations, make their own rules to fit their own needs within a universally accepted frame of justice and law.

Under freedom, thriving sovereign nations of diverse political, economic and social systems are the basic healthy cells that make up a thriving world community. freedom and independence for each is in the interest of all.

For that very reason—in our own enlightened self-interest, in the interest of all our friends—the purpose of American assistance programs is to protect the right of nations to develop the political and social institutions of their choice. None, we believe should have to accept extremist solutions under the whip of hunger, or the threat of armed attack and domination.

We—free, self-governing peoples—readily accept that there is a great variety of political, social and economic systems in the world; and we accept the further fact that there is no single, best way of life that answers the needs of everyone, everywhere.

The American way satisfies the United States. We think it is best for us.

But the United States need not believe that all should imitate us. But what all of us do have in common with the free nations in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America are basic and weighty convictions, more important than differences of speech and color and culture.

Some of these convictions are: that man is a being capable of making his own decisions; that all people should be given a fair opportunity to use their God-given talents, to be worthy heirs of their fathers, to fulfill their destiny as children of God; that voluntary cooperation among groups and nations is vastly preferable to cooperation by force—indeed, voluntary cooperation is the only fruitful kind of effort in the long run.

True enough, in a too lengthy period of history, some European nations seemed convinced that they were assigned the mission of controlling the continents. But always powerful voices within those countries attacked the policy of their own governments. And we of the American Republics—twenty-one independent nations, once European

colonies—denied in arms and in battle the validity of the assumed mission. Colonialism died there because true nationalism was a more potent force.

Since 1945, thirty-three lands that were once subject to Western control have peaceably achieved self-determination. These countries have a population of almost a billion people. During the same period, twelve countries in the Sino-Soviet sphere have been forcibly deprived of their independence. The question might be asked: Who are today the colonialists?

The basic antagonism of the Communist system to anything which it cannot control is the single, most important cause of the tension between the free nations in all their variety on the one hand, and, on the other, the rigidly controlled Communist bloc.

One purpose of the Communist system's propaganda is to obscure these true facts. Right now, the principal target is the United States of America. The United States is painted by the Communists as an imperialistic seeker of limitless power over all the peoples of the world, using them as pawns on the chessboard of war, exploiting them and their resources to enrich our own economy, degrading them to a role of beggarly dependence.

The existence, the prosperity, the prestige of the Republic of the Philippines proves the falsity of those charges. You, as a people, know that our American Republic is no empire of tyranny. Your leaders repeatedly have so testified to the world. But for a few minutes I should like to speak to you on what America stands for: what it stood for before I became President and what it will continue to stand for after I have left office.

More important than any one year, any one incident, or any one man is the role we have played through our whole history—the role we shall continue to play so long as our Republic endures.

Two hundred years, lacking sixteen, have passed since our forefathers proclaimed to the world the truths they held self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed with inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that governments are instituted among men to secure those rights, deriving their just powers only from the consent of the governed.

On the day of that proclamation, you and we and scores of other now-free nations were colonies. Mankind everywhere was engaged in a bitter struggle for bare survival. Only a few by the accident of birth enjoyed ease without back-breaking toil. Naked power, more often than not, was the decisive element in human affairs. Most men died young after an all too short life of poverty.

Since then, free men—using their rights, embracing their opportunities, daring to venture and to risk, recognizing that justice and good will fortify strength—have transformed the world.

The wilderness and jungle of nature have been conquered. The mysteries of the universe are being unlocked. The powers of the elements have been harnessed for human benefit. The ancient tyrannies of hunger and disease and ignorance have been relentlessly attacked and ceaselessly reduced in their domains.

The evil of our forebears' times were manifold and entrenched and often accepted without murmur. But to free men who saw in their fellow men the image of God, who recognized in themselves a capacity to transform their circumstances and environment—to such free men, those evils were unbearable.

Not all of these evils were vanquished at the first assault. Indeed, many still survive. Not always was success persistently prosecuted to ultimate triumph. Free men, however mighty their inspiration, are humanly frail.

At times they may be fearful when they should be girding and bracing themselves for more vigorous effort; trading words when they should be working; bickering over trifles when they should be uniting on essentials; rioting when they should be calmly planning. Often they may dissipate their energies in futile and wasteful exercise. Often they are mistaken or for a while misled. Being human, these things are true about all of us. Nevertheless, the resources of

free men living in free communities, cooperating with their neighbors at home and overseas, constitute the mightiest creative temporal force on earth.

In your sister Republic of the United States, the greatest achievement of our history is that our rebels against colonialism, against subjection, against tyranny, were the first in this era to raise the banner of freedom and decent nationalism, to carry it beyond our shores, and to honor it everywhere.

What we stood for in 1776, when we were fighting for our freedom, we still stand for in 1960.

To maintain our stand for peace and friendship and freedom among the nations, the United States must remain strong and always faithful to its friends, making clear that propaganda pressures, rocket rattling and even open aggression are bound to fail.

Beyond the guarantees of American strength, we seek to expand a collective security. SEATO demonstrates what can be accomplished. Since its inception not one inch of free Southeast Asia territory has been lost to an aggressor.

Collective security must be based on all fields of human endeavor, requiring cooperation and mutual exchange in the areas of politics, economics, culture and science. We believe in the expansion of relations between nations as a step toward more formal regional cooperation. In accord with this belief, we support the initiative taken by the Government of the Philippines during the past several years in establishing closer ties with its neighbors.

Patience, forbearance, integrity, an enduring trust, must between our two countries characterize our mutual relations. Never, I pray, will the United States because of its favored position in size and numbers and wealth, attempt to dictate or to exercise any unfair pressure of any kind, or to forget or to ignore the Republic of the Philippines—its equal in sovereign dignity. And never, I pray, will the Philippines deem it advantageous either at home or abroad to make a whipping boy of the United States. Each of us proudly recognizes the other as its sovereign equal.

And my friends, at this point I just want to interpolate one simple thought on the cooperative efforts for our own security, for advancing the standards of living of peoples, for everything that we do together, there are of course differences in the ability of each nation to make contributions.

Each of us as an individual is different from every other individual. Physically, mentally, and in the possession of the world's goods, we are somewhat different. But I submit, Members of the Congress, that there is one field where no man, no woman, no nation, need take a secondary place, and that is in moral leadership.

The spirit of a people is not to be measured by its size or its riches or even its age. It is something that comes from the heart, and from the very smallest nation can come some of the great ideas—particularly those great inspirational ideas that inspire men to strive always upward and onward.

Therefore, when I say that our two nations are sovereign equals, I mean it just in that spirit, in the sense that you have just as much to contribute to the world and to yourselves and to freedom as the greatest and the most powerful nation in the world.

Now finally, in this great cause of peace and friendship and freedom, we who are joined together will succeed. The eternal aspirations, purposes, ideals of humanity inspire and hearten and urge us to success.

But we face repeated challenges; endless temptations to relax, continuous campaigns of propaganda and threat. Let us stand more firmly together against them all.

And so doing, and with God's help, we shall march ever forward toward our destiny as free nations and great and good friends.

Thank you very much.

*Note: The President spoke at 4 p.m. In his opening words he referred to Eulogio Rodriguez, President of the Senate, and Daniel Z. Romualdez, Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

*Citation: Dwight D. Eisenhower: "Address Before a Joint Session of the Philippine Senate and House of Representatives.," June 15, 1960. Online by Gerhard Peters and John T. Woolley, *The American Presidency Project*.*

*Source: **The American Presidency Project***

**Joint Communique issued by President Carlos P. Garcia and President Dwight D. Eisenhower on the latter's State Visit to the Philippines from June 14, to 16, 1960 JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY PRESIDENT CARLOS P. GARCIA OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE LATTER'S STATE VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES FROM JUNE 14, TO 16, 1960**

PRESIDENT Eisenhower, at the invitation of President Garcia, paid a state visit to the Philippines on June 14 to 16, 1960, returning the visit of President Garcia to the United States two years ago.

President Eisenhower recalled his personal association with the Philippines extending over a period of many years. As the first President of the United States to visit the Philippines while in office, he expressed his deep sense of satisfaction that he had been afforded this opportunity to attest to the admiration and affection which the government and people of the United States feel toward their Philippine allies.

President Garcia, on his part, viewed the affection shown to President Eisenhower by the Filipino people as a grateful remembrance of the latter's tour of duty in the Philippines some twenty-five years ago and their admiration for his military leadership in the Second World War and his dedicated labors for a just and lasting world peace.

The visit afforded President Garcia and President Eisenhower, together with other officials of both governments, an opportunity for a frank and cordial exchange of views on matters of mutual interest. In a review of the international situation and of the bilateral relations of the two countries, the two Presidents:

1. Reaffirmed the bonds of friendship and mutual understanding which have historically joined the Filipino and American governments and peoples.
2. Noted the problems facing the free world at the beginning of the new decade and discussed the possibility of increased tensions in view of recent statements by Communist leaders in Moscow and Peiping. They renewed their determination to support the work of the United Nations and the objectives of the United Nations' Charter in the interest of true international peace and progress based on justice and the dignity of the individual.
3. Assessed the continuing threat to peace in the Far East posed by Communist China. They reaffirmed the importance of regional cooperation in insuring the independence of the nations of Southeast Asia. They emphasized the important role of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization in furthering such cooperation and in developing a sense of regional solidarity; and they noted with satisfaction the contribution being made by the Philippines toward strengthening its ties with its Asian neighbors.

*Source:* University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Welcome remarks of President Garcia on the arrival of President Eisenhower, June 14, 1960**

**Welcome remarks  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
On the arrival of President Dwight D. Eisenhower**

[Delivered on June 14, 1960 at the Manila International Airport]

MR. PRESIDENT:

THE Philippines and the Filipino people bid you and your distinguished party warmest welcome.

As the humble spokesman of this nation so graciously honored by your visit, I would like to give voice in the greatest measure possible to the immeasurable feeling of affection and esteem that beats so spontaneously in our hearts for you and the great American people.

I recall with a deep sense of gratitude the visit that it was my privilege to make in the United States as your guest two years ago. I am happy that you have honored us with this return visit and I express the hope that we can make your stay with us a treasured memory that you will always cherish in the same manner that you made my sojourn in Washington an unforgettable experience.

Here, Mr. President, is a nation that stands for all that America stands for in the way of the greatest human values—freedom, democracy, and the brotherhood of men. These are the ideals that bind your country and ours together, and with them the other nations of the world striving sincerely to win world peace with justice and honor for all.

You had been in our midst before. Indeed, at one time you lived with us, worked with us and dreamed with us the life to which we aspire—a national aspiration that was our inspiration and article of faith during the long dark moment of the last world war. When we welcome you, therefore at this time, we feel and we wish you to feel that it is a welcome home.

Welcome home, Mr. President. Welcome, America whom the Filipino people hold closest to the heart. This is an affinity forged in common principles, common ideals, and common experience in war and in peace. I need not recount again the history of this affinity, for it is already well known. The story has been told in the course of half a century, culminating in the apocalypse of Bataan and Corregidor and the apotheosis of Philippine independence following victory for the free world.

But the victory remains to be made complete. And you, Mr. President, come to our midst in the course of a continued quest for the just peace that will endure. We assure you and the great American people that you lead, as well as the free nations that have identified themselves with the Great Cause, that the Philippines is and will ever be a staunch friend and ally over the vicissitudes of time.

You will be long remembered by our people and other free peoples in Asia for your patient, passionate, and unrelenting quest for a permanent and just world peace in whose environment man may finally subdue such age-old adversaries as ignorance, disease, poverty, and vice and fulfill his highest destiny. We realize that sinister forces keep trying to undermine this grand effort for world peace, but we believe that in the end a gleaming white tower of world peace and brotherhood will rise sturdy and strong upon the firm foundations that America has laid under your leadership.



We in the Philippines know that there are dark clouds hovering over the world, including over our own land, because of the Communist offensive. The collapse of the summit conference in Paris has of late intensified the cold war. That you have not been disheartened or dismayed, is a summon for the free world to rise to greater heights than theretofore reached. We are with you, Mr. President, as your friend and ally in the Great Cause that as free men we are pledged to defend with all our might and main in complete identification with the rest of the freedom-loving and peace-loving humanity.

Around you here today, Mr. President, are the Filipino people of whose ovation my voice is but a part. See the sincere friendship reflected in their faces. Hear them thunder welcome. And with them and us are also the representatives of the foreign community in Manila, friends too who are with us in the cause of true peace and true amity among nations.

Welcome home, Mr. President. We remember you as the army officer who came to us way back in 1935 to help us organize our national defense. You are not a stranger to these multitudes who today are acclaiming you. You have made lasting friendships among them. We have watched with increasing pride your rise in your people's esteem as though you belonged to us also. We look at you as the champion of everything that we cherish nearest and closest to our hearts. By this popular manifestation we hope to impart to you the message that in the Philippines, America has a peerless friend and among the Filipinos she will always find a people who are one with her in ideals.

You are at home, Mr. President, as if you were among your own. And in this spirit, let me open our doors and say to you with a full heart in our national language—"Tuloy Po Kayo Sa Amin." (Welcome, Sir, to our home).

Mabuhay!

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**Message of His Excellency Dwight D. Eisenhower at a Dinner Given in His Honor by President Garcia, June 15, 1960**

**Message  
of  
His Excellency Dwight D. Eisenhower  
At a Dinner Given in His Honor by President Garcia**

[Released on June 15, 1960]

Mr. President, Mrs. Garcia, and distinguished guests:

There are some of you at this dinner that attended a somewhat similar occasion in this very spot just a bit over 20 years ago. There was a despedida given to my wife and me by President Quezon. It was both a joyous and a sad occasion. Two things had happened. Europe was at war, and most of us believed that the United States could not prevent itself from getting embroiled. So by agreement with President Quezon, I went back to the United States, and I was very happy that I was to be given the opportunity to help prepare, Mr. President, our country and its forces for the coming struggle.

The occasion was also sad, because we were leaving so many other friends that we had formed through 4 years of intimate association with them, working with them and playing with them.

Now I want to call your attention to those 20 years, not to review merely the record that history has written about them in science, in literature, in construction, and all the marvels of men's genius that we now enjoy. I want to point out the pace at which we are now moving.

We had already achieved trans-Pacific air transport in 1938 or something of that kind, but those boats were flying boats and they could move only in daytime, they tied up at night and they were nothing at all like the later transports—the Constellations and the DC-7's and so on. They were followed in turn by the jets. And now the companies advertise that their jet is faster and faster—and possibly soon we will be going from breakfast to one spot in order to have dinner the night before in another, because in such fashion we will outrace the earth's movement.

Electronics was something only discussed in the laboratories by scientists. Our whole system of communications, of transport, and aids to aviation have all been developed in these 20 years.

And now let's think for a second of the time from Cleopatra to Napoleon. In all those centuries the pace of transportation never once moved forward. The ancient Egyptians had chariots, and while sailing ships had achieved some improvement, we were still dependent upon the wind to get across the oceans, and the horse or the camel was our best transport on land.

I think we should stop and recognize how this pace let's say the curve of civilization—has leaped forward in leaps and bounds in these very few years. Even if we go back to the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, we still have a pace that, compared to the prior years, was like taking a race horse and comparing it to a snail.

This means, I think, that the years in front of us are going to be just as dramatic and are going to witness the same kind of changes we have in the past 20. I think that any individual here would have to have a bold imagination to sit down this evening and try to write out for himself what are going to be the achievements in the several sciences and arts in the coming 20 years.

President Garcia spoke of the need for preparation, and of the people he pointed out that won't fight and who are never prepared. We must fight. But above all we must be prepared. And I do not mean to fight wars as we have understood that.

Weapons have now come upon the scene that make war as we have understood it in the past a complete absurdity and really impossible and preposterous. They mean, in short—if used in the profusion that prophets sometimes predict—really the destruction of civilization as we know it. This cannot be.

And yet, with all of these changes certain to come upon us, we must keep a steady mind and a steady heart. We must keep a steady purpose. We must look forward to those next 20 years, and we must be ready with every reasonable idea and conviction and faith that we can bring to bear, as we confer with our friends and even those that are hostile to us, to make certain that this world does not become so badly out of balance that only catastrophe can result.

When I talk about these dire possibilities, I do not mean to be pessimistic. I am quite sure that there was never in war a battle won by a pessimist. We must be optimists. But optimism by no means should beget complacency.

I believe that the time for working harder, more thoughtfully, in more dedicated fashion, is now with us. We must strengthen our spiritual powers in a deeper faith in the Almighty. We must dedicate ourselves more to the ideal of peace, not a peace of surrender, not a peace of appeasement—a decent, reasonable peace, permanent and with justice for all.

We must train ourselves—we must look to our educational processes, and in this way, though we may not in those 20 years—since that is the space I have chosen to speak about this evening—we must not for one moment give up this effort to induce those hostile to us to see things in a better light and to follow with us the path of reason.

But at the very least, we must make certain that associations among us—and by among us I mean all friends of freedom, the people that believe in the dignity of man and his rights under and given to him by the Almighty—these are the ideals in which we must bind ourselves closer together than ever before. And if the mighty forces that are available in all the free world will so bind themselves, will so dedicate themselves, will so work unremittingly, then no matter whatever may betide, we cannot be in danger. It is merely, as I see it, up to us.

Now the point of my remarks is this: over these 60 years we have gradually achieved better and better relations between our two countries—between the Philippines and the United States of America. Today I think they are stronger and better than they ever have been before. But I think they are not yet good enough. Because we must work as brothers, not as two people sitting across the table and arguing to the point that we can say there can be no agreement. We must have agreements, and they must be achieved in such a way as to satisfy the sense of reason and logic of both sides. Then we will go further and further forward, and we will be one element in that mighty team in the free world of making certain that peace with justice and in freedom will be a reality.

I cannot tell you how deep my faith is that this will come about, and one of the greatest factors in the development of this belief and this conviction and this faith is our association, our work with and our friendship between the United States and the Philippines.

So it is with a sense of, really, obligation to a great nation and its head that I ask this company to rise with me to drink a Toast to my friend, the President of the Philippines.

*Note: The President proposed the toast at 9:48 p.m. at a dinner at the Malacanang Palace.*

*Citation: Dwight D. Eisenhower: “Toast by the President at a Dinner Given in His Honor by President Garcia,” June 15, 1960. Online by Gerhard Peters and John T. Woolley, *The American Presidency Project*.*

*Source: **The American Presidency Project***

**Remarks of President Garcia at the State Dinner given in honor of President Eisenhower, June 15, 1960**

**Remarks  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the State Dinner Given in honor of President Eisenhower**

[Released at Malacañang on June 15, 1960]

MR. PRESIDENT:

IN a powerful story by Ambrose Bierce, I recently read the; thrilling account of a regimental line of battle awaiting the order to advance. As only Bierce's pen can describe it, the reader sees the long line, quiet, perfect in its precision, each officer and soldier at his post, each superbly disciplined, alert and ready. Then in beautiful flashbacks, the author sketches in the background, behind the lines, tumult among the supply trains, orders and counter-orders medical corpsmen and others running in all directions, in short, a kind of disorderly order. The story-teller ends his story with one felicitous sentence: "The men who do not fight are never ready."

I recall this story tonight not only because our distinguished guest of honor was once a military leader but because there is a moral that I would like to draw from it.

Under this roof, Mr. President, many a great foreign dignitary had been entertained but never one with your record of service to the world. You have been the Supreme Commander of the most powerful army ever mustered together under one command in recorded history and you have led them as the legions of freedom to victory and to immortality. This was in war. In peace, you have been twice elected to the highest post in the gift of the American people and under your leadership America has shown she can rise to great heights because your vision and statesmanship have summoned her to dare and to achieve.

We are engaged today in a life and death global struggle against Communism. Your recent efforts to relieve world tensions and reach an agreement that can lead to peace have been unfortunately frustrated—I hope only temporarily. But deep as the impress your war record has left in history and high as your place is on the roll of your country's statesmen, posterity, Sir, will honor you more for the unrelenting struggle that you are waging for peace. Your serenity and unruffled poise in the face of abuse, your dignity and restraint, your stubborn determination to continue to reach your goal despite obstacles in your way—your life indeed has been a life of constant fight—ready to lead the world once again to victory and to peace.

If we are to win in the struggle in which we are now engaged, we must avoid in our free world disunity and disorder as depicted in Ambrose Bierce's flashbacks. The time for unity is now and the Philippines is ready to join its efforts, modest though they be, with that of like-minded nations, in concord and harmony, to fight for peace, that it may not be said of them: "The men who do not fight are "never ready."

Cardinal Newman once aptly said: "Men are guided by *type*, not by argument; that some *winning instances* must be set before them or the sermon will be in vain and the doctrine will not spread."

Mr. President, you are the type and the winning instance to inspire the free world to follow and emulate.

Ladies and gentlemen: I ask you to rise and drink a toast with me to this century's indomitable fighter for peace, the President of the United States.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

## **Welcome Remarks of President Garcia on the arrival of President Eisenhower**

**Message  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
On the arrival of President Eisenhower**

[Delivered at the Manila International Airport, June 20, 1960]

MR. PRESIDENT:

THE Philippines and the Filipino people bid you and your distinguished party warmest welcome.

As the humble spokesman of this nation so graciously honored by your visit, I would like to give voice in the greatest measure possible to the immeasurable feeling of affection and esteem that beats so spontaneously in our hearts for you and the great American people.

I recall with a deep sense of gratitude the visit that it was my privilege to make in the United States as your guest two years ago. I am happy that you have honored us with this return visit and I express the hope that we can make your stay with us a treasured memory that you will always cherish in the same manner that you made my sojourn in Washington an unforgettable experience.

Here, Mr. President, is a nation that stands for all that America stands for in the way of the greatest human values—freedom, democracy, and the brotherhood of men. These are the ideals that bind your country and ours together, and with them the other nations of the world striving sincerely to win world peace with justice and honor for all.

You had been in our midst before. Indeed, at one time you lived with us, worked with us and dreamed with us the life to which we aspire—a national aspiration that was our inspiration and article of faith during the long dark moment of the last world war. When we welcome you, therefore at this time, we feel and we wish you to feel that it is a welcome home.

Welcome home, Mr. President. Welcome, America whom the Filipino people hold closest to the heart. This is an affinity forged in common principles, common ideals, and common experience in war and in peace. I need not recount again the history of this affinity, for it is already well known. The story has been told in the course of half a century, culminating in the apocalypse of Bataan and Corregidor and the apotheosis of Philippine independence following victory for the free world.

But the victory remains to be made complete. And you, Mr. President, come to our midst in the course of a continued quest for the just peace that will endure. We assure you and the great American people that you lead, as well as the free nations that have identified themselves with the Great Cause, that the Philippines is and will ever be a staunch friend and ally over the vicissitudes of time.

You will be long remembered by our people and other free peoples in Asia for your patient, passionate, and unrelenting quest for a permanent and just world peace in whose environment man may finally subdue such age-old adversaries as ignorance, disease, poverty, and vice and fulfill his highest destiny. We realize that sinister forces keep trying to undermine this grand effort for world peace, but we believe that in the end a gleaming white tower of world peace and brotherhood will rise sturdy and strong upon the firm foundations that America has laid under your leadership.

We in the Philippines know that there are dark clouds hovering over the world, including over our own land, because of the Communist offensive. The collapse of the summit conference in Paris has of late intensified the cold war. That you have not been disheartened or dismayed, is a summon for the free world to rise to greater heights than

theretofore reached. We are with you, Mr. President, as your friend and ally in the Great Cause that as free men we are pledged to defend with all our might and main in complete identification with the rest of the freedom-loving and peace-loving humanity.

Around you here today, Mr. President, are the Filipino people of whose ovation my voice is but a part. See the sincere friendship reflected in their faces. Hear them thunder welcome. And with them and us are also the representatives of the foreign community in Manila, friends too who are with us in the cause of true peace and true amity among nations.

Welcome home, Mr. President. We remember you as the army officer who came to us way back in 1935 to help us organize our national defense. You are not a stranger to these multitudes who today are acclaiming you. You have made lasting friendships among them. We have watched with increasing pride your rise in your people's, esteem as though you belonged to us also. We look at you as the champion of everything that we cherish nearest and closest to our hearts. By this popular manifestation we, hope to impart to you the message that in the Philippines, America has a peerless friend and among the Filipinos she will always find a people who are one with her in ideals.

You are at home, Mr. President, as if you were among your own. And in this spirit, let me open our doors and say to you with a full heart in our national language—"Tuloy Po Kayo Sa Amin." (Welcome, Sir, to our home).

Mabuhay!

*Source: Presidential Museum and Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1960). President Garcia's welcome remarks on the arrival of President Eisenhower, at 5:00 *p.m.*, at the Manila International Airport. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 56(25), 4187-4189.

**Remarks of President Garcia at the Kick Off Ceremony of the Fifth Cancer Education, Membership, and Fund Drive**

**Remarks  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the Kick-Off Ceremony of the Fifth Cancer Education, Membership, and Fund Drive**

[Delivered at the Malacañang Social Hall, January 17, 1961]

ONE of the tasks which I have always pleasantly looked forward to is the opening of fund campaigns for worthy causes. This is especially true of the National Education, Membership, and Fund Campaign of the Cancer Society of the Philippines, which for the past years I have formally opened.

The year 1960 was, I understand, a fruitful year for the Cancer Society. The number of patients who sought the services of its Detection and Diagnostic Center increased tremendously, and to cope with this increase a new wing was added to the Society building.

This diagnostic and detection service offered free of cost by the Cancer Society is, to my mind, one of the most effective factors in our attempt to control the disease. This is so because early detection of cancer is usually more important than the medical treatment which can be given after the discovery, of the affliction. Early discovery of the presence of cancer in a patient almost always results in effective treatment. Late discovery usually has tragic results for no surefire treatment as yet has been discovered for this disease in its advance stage. It is this aspect of cancer that has made it a deadly killer.

However, diagnosis and detection of cancer, in its early stages are both difficult and expensive. This coupled with the fact that the afflicted person usually does not feel pain at this stage had prevented a big number of our people, especially those unfortunate ones who are financially handicapped, from knowing that deadly cancer cells are already gnawing at their bodies until it is too late.

What the Cancer Society has done for our country during the four years of its existence, has been to make available to even the poorest of our people, the services of experts in cancer detection free of charge. This alone would be sufficient to justify nation-wide support, morally and financially, for the Cancer Society as it enters its fifth year of service to our people.

Every peso of support given unselfishly to the Cancer Society insures that some poor man somewhere, who cannot afford the services of specialists, will be served and perhaps prevented from falling a victim of this dread disease. For this reason, I want to see that the services and facilities of the Cancer Society be expanded to the end that everyone who needs help can be served.

I therefore, call upon all citizens and residents of the Philippines, irrespective of nationality, race, or creed, to assist in this humanitarian undertaking by giving generously to the present Cancer Fund Campaign.

I also authorize and call upon all national, provincial, city, and municipal officials and employees to extend full and unstinted cooperation to make this campaign a complete success.

I now declare the National Education, Membership, and Fund Campaign of the Cancer Society of the Philippines for the year 1961 officially open.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1961). Remarks of President Garcia at the Kick Off Ceremony of the Fifth Cancer Education, Membership, and Fund Drive held Tuesday afternoon, January 17, 1961, at the Malacañang Social Hall of which he was Guest of Honor. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57(5), 815-816.



**Remarks of President Garcia at the state dinner for Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson, May 13, 1961**

**Remarks  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the state dinner for Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson**

*[Delivered at Malacañang, May 13, 1961]*

MR. VICE PRESIDENT,  
HIS ILLUSTRIOUS LADY,  
YOUR EXCELLENCIES,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

WE ARE singularly privileged to have with us the Vice-President of the United States of America. To you, your distinguished Lady, and the other members of your party, the Filipino people open their homes and their hearts to welcome you to our land and to wish you a happy sojourn in our country. Brief though it be, we regard your visit as momentous for the Philippines and the whole of Asia because by it you are spreading the new warm American message of courage and hope for the emerging and developing democracies in this part of the globe.

We are realizing the fact that the United States under the new, inspiring, and courageous leadership of President Kennedy is building the kind of strength in the United States which will be for the defense of freedom around the world. Filipinos hail the information that the new leadership in Washington wants a peace in which the funds now poured into the destructive forces of armaments may be channeled into the constructive results of disarmament—into a great multination effort to eradicate disease, harness rivers, eliminate illiteracy, and exploit the frontiers of space. We are gladdened to know that the United States wants to see the United Nations a truly effective body “working toward the establishment of a world-wide peace under law enforced by world-wide sanctions of justice.”

Above all, as far as Asians are concerned, we were assured under the new American leadership, that America still stands “for freedom and progress and the pursuit of peace,” which means that America must help the developing and newly emerging nations of the world to achieve the economic progress on which their political freedom depends. The American nation wants to be sure that these developing nations are strong and stable enough to resist the steady and ruthless infiltration of communist subversion. We were assured that the American people have decided to “demonstrate in this generation that economic growth and human liberty can evolve hand in hand” and that the present American administration proposes to do a big job to mobilize a joint, long-term program of assistance to underdeveloped areas within the Free World.”

Mr. Vice-President, we like to look, at your tour to the Philippines and Southeast Asia as a positive demonstration of the unwavering resolution of the American government and people to translate into living realities all these commitments of the USA to the emerging democracies in Asia. God knows that we who are your allies in Asia, who kept faith with you in war and in peace for the defense of freedom and democracy, no matter what the cost, we need to feel deep in our national consciousness the surge of renewed faith and cheer and courage generated by the reassuring hand and inspiring contact and communion with the Leader of the Free World—the United States of America.

Asia, occupying one-third of the earth’s surface, and teeming with billions of people of varied races, color, and creed, constitutes the mightiest challenge to, and the supreme test of, America leadership for peace, democracy, and freedom. Destiny united the U.S. and the Philippines in heroic defense of freedom and democracy during the Second World War. Destiny will keep us ever united for the same sacrosanct cause.

May I now ask you, ladies and gentlemen, to join me in a toast to the continued good health of His Excellency, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, President of the United States of America, and to the peace, happiness, and prosperity of the American people.

**RESPONSE OF U.S. VICE-PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON TO THE REMARKS OF PRESIDENT CARLOS P. GARCIA AT THE STATE DINNER, MAY 13, 1961 AT MALACAÑANG**

MRS. JOHNSON and I have been literally overwhelmed by the welcome that we have received here today. Filipino hospitality is well known the world over but the warmth and the sincerity of our reception has seemed to me to represent something more. It has been really a very personal reaffirmation of the deep and the abiding friendship that has long existed between our two governments, and even more truly between our peoples.

At the same time, it has been very gratifying proof that the Philippines continue to offer the wholehearted support which it has consistently accorded to my country in our efforts to provide effective leadership for the Free World in these hard post-war years.

I have come to the Philippines and I will travel in the days to come in other countries of Southeast Asia, to assure the peoples of this region of the readiness of President Kennedy and the new administration in the United States to continue to act as their partner, their ally, and their friend. I refer to our determination to contribute through technical aid, through development assistance to you, on long term defensive economic and social goals, both as individual nations and as a region with common aspirations and one facing common dangers. The Kennedy administration is fully aware of the dangers which confront the Philippines and the dangers that you are not separated by broad expanses of ocean from the terrors of communistic penetration. My country has on numerous occasions demonstrated its willingness to come to the aid of free peoples who threatened from without.

Back in the hill country in which I was reared in Texas, we have a saying that you have the kind of friend you are. And you have been our friends and we are your friends, and I can assure you tonight that we will continue to honor our obligations, and, if so asked, proceed either unilaterally or in concert with other allies to maintain the Free World position in Asia. In that free world position in Asia, the Philippines is a cornerstone which supports our faith and confidence in the future. The United States of America is proud, extremely proud, to stand side by side with your beloved country.

Ladies and gentlemen, this has been an unusual day for me, filled with honors and inspirations. I have met here in the house of a friend, true friends, and have discussed the problems that confront the Free World, two friends representing friendly lands. So I now have the honor to ask you to join with me in a toast to the health of His Excellency, Carlos P. Garcia, President of the Republic of the Philippines, and to the prosperity and betterment and wellbeing of the wonderful Filipino people.

*Source:* **Presidential Museum and Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1961). Remarks of President Carlos P. Garcia at the state dinner for Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57 (21), 3894-3896.

**Remarks of President Carlos P. Garcia at the State Dinner for Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson**

**Remarks  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the State Dinner for Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson**

[Delivered at Malacañang on May 13, 1961]

MR.  
HIS  
YOUR  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

VICE  
ILLUSTRIOUS

PRESIDENT,  
LADY,  
EXCELLENCIES,

WE ARE singularly privileged to have with us the Vice-President of the United States of America. To you, your distinguished Lady, and the other members of your party, the Filipino people open their homes and their hearts to welcome you to our land and to wish you a happy sojourn in our country. Brief though it be, we regard your visit as momentous for the Philippines and the whole of Asia because by it you are spreading the new warm American message of courage and hope for the emerging and developing democracies in this part of the globe.

We are realizing the fact that the United States under the new, inspiring, and courageous leadership of President Kennedy is building the kind of strength in the United States which will be for the defense of freedom around the world. Filipinos hail the information that the new leadership in Washington wants a peace in which the funds now poured into the destructive forces of armaments may be channeled into the constructive results of disarmament—into a great multination effort to eradicate disease, harness rivers, eliminate illiteracy, and exploit the frontiers of space. We are gladdened to know that the United States wants to see the United Nations a truly effective body “working toward the establishment of a world-wide peace under law enforced by world-wide sanctions of justice.”

Above all, as far as Asians are concerned, we were assured under the new American leadership, that America still stands “for freedom and progress and the pursuit of peace,” which means that America must help the developing and newly emerging nations of the world to achieve the economic progress on which their political freedom depends. The American nation wants to be sure that these developing nations are strong and stable enough to resist the steady and ruthless infiltration of communist subversion. We were assured that the American people have decided to “demonstrate in this generation that economic growth and human liberty can evolve hand in hand” and that the present American administration proposes to do a big job to mobilize a joint, long-term program of assistance to underdeveloped areas within the Free World.”

Mr. Vice-President, we like to look, at your tour to the Philippines and Southeast Asia as a positive demonstration of the unwavering resolution of the American government and people to translate into living realities all these commitments of the USA to the emerging democracies in Asia. God knows that we who are your allies in Asia, who kept faith with you in war and in peace for the defense of freedom and democracy, no matter what the cost, we need to feel deep in our national consciousness the surge of renewed faith and cheer and courage generated by the reassuring hand and inspiring contact and communion with the Leader of the Free World—the United States of America.

Asia, occupying one-third of the earth’s surface, and teeming with billions of people of varied races, color, and creed, constitutes the mightiest challenge to, and the supreme test of, America leadership for peace, democracy, and freedom. Destiny united the U.S. and the Philippines in heroic defense of freedom and democracy during the Second World War. Destiny will keep us ever united for the same sacrosanct cause.

May I now ask you, ladies and gentlemen, to join me in a toast to the continued good health of His Excellency, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, President of the United States of America, and to the peace, happiness, and prosperity of the American people.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1961). Remarks of President Carlos P. Garcia at the State Dinner for Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57(21), 3894-3896.

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Agreement between the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of Indonesia**

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE  
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

The Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of Indonesia, in furtherance of the friendly relations existing between them and desiring to conclude an Agreement providing for the treatment which shall be accorded the nationals of each Contracting Party who are illegally in the territory of the other, and establishing, on a reciprocal basis, a more expeditious and simplified system of control for the entry and exit of the nationals of each of the Contracting Parties living within the specified Border Area of such Contracting Party and intending to make visits of limited duration to the corresponding Border Area of the other Contracting Party, have designated for this purpose the undersigned Plenipotentiaries who, after communicating to each other their respective full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows:

**ARTICLE I**

Except as hereinafter provided, each of the Contracting Parties shall repatriate its nationals who are now or may hereafter be found in the territory of the other after it shall have been determined by the competent authorities of the latter that such nationals of the Contracting Party concerned have entered illegally the territory of the other Contracting Party. This undertaking shall include all expenses for their subsistence and medical treatment while under detention, pending repatriation, which expenses shall accrue from the moment of notification of their detention in such place as may be designated by the Contracting Parties, and in returning them to their country.

**ARTICLE II**

In consideration of the undertaking of each Contracting Party provided in Article I the following classes of persons shall be exempt from the application of the said Article I upon legalization of their permanent residence status.

1. The nationals of each of the Contracting Parties who had illegally entered the territory of the other before January 1, 1946, and have continuously resided therein, including their minor children born in the said territory, provided that they are admissible and not subject to deportation under the laws of the Contracting Party in whose territory they are found, except for the fact that they had entered illegally.
2. The nationals of each of the Contracting Parties who entered illegally and who are residing illegally in the territory of the other and who, before January 1, 1954, had contracted valid marriage with the nationals of the Contracting Party in whose territory they are residing as shown in official registry records.

**ARTICLE III**

Each of the Contracting Parties shall, at the date of this agreement, communicate to the other a binding official estimate of the number of nationals of the other Contracting Party illegally within its territory as of October 29, 1954. All illegal entries after October 29, 1954, shall be treated as future entries and shall be summarily repatriated under the provisions of Article I.

**ARTICLE IV**

Application for legalization of permanent residence under the provisions of subparagraphs 1 or 2 of Article II hereof must be filed in due form with the competent authorities of the Contracting Party concerned by the applicant within

a period of three (3) months from the date this Agreement takes effect, extendible for another period not exceeding three (3) months upon the written request of either of the Contracting Parties; *Provided, however*, that any person failing to comply with the provisions of this Article shall be deemed illegally residing in the country where he is found and shall forthwith be repatriated under the provisions of Article I of this Agreement.

#### ARTICLE V

The nationals of each of the Contracting Parties claiming the privilege of legalizing their permanent residence on the basis of subparagraphs 1 or 2 of Article II of this Agreement must in every case present evidence that they fall under any of the two exempted class above-mentioned, satisfactory to the competent authorities of the Contracting Party within whose territory they reside, and subject, in case of appeal by the persons concerned to judicial review by its courts.

Each of the Contracting Parties shall charge for the legalization and alien registration under the provisions of this Article a fee of the equivalent in legal tender of fifty Philippine pesos for each person: *Provided, however*, that persons of 14 years of age or below shall be exempt from such charges; and *Provided, further*, that, in the case of Indonesian nationals, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia shall pay all amounts due under this Article to the Government of the Republic of the Philippines in two installments, the first of which shall be paid on the date this Agreement takes effect, and the second, within twelve months thereafter.

#### ARTICLE VI

The Contracting Parties agree to establish a system of border crossing control whereby nationals of each of the Contracting Parties residing in the specified Border Area may freely enter into, and travel within, the corresponding Border Area of the other solely for purposes of business and/or visit of relatives and/or for religious worship and/or pleasure, subject to the laws and regulations existing therein, provided that they are bona fide holders of Border Crossing Cards which shall be issued by each of the Contracting Parties in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

#### ARTICLE VII

For purposes of this Agreement, the Border Areas are:

Philippines—

- |    |                    |         |        |
|----|--------------------|---------|--------|
| 1. | Balut-Sarangani    | Island  | Group  |
| 2. | Sibutu             | Island  | Group  |
| 3. |                    | Simanul | Island |
| 4. | Manuk Manka Island |         |        |

Indonesia—

- |    |                |        |       |
|----|----------------|--------|-------|
| 1. | Taland-Sangi   | Island | Group |
| 2. | Miangas        | Island | Group |
| 3. | Kawio          | Island | Group |
| 4. | Nunukan Island |        |       |

#### ARTICLE VIII

Border Crossing Cards, valid for presentation within a period of thirty (30) days from date of issuance thereof and for a stay of not exceeding fifty-nine (59) days, may be issued upon payment of the equivalent in legal tender of the sum of ten Philippine pesos as service charge in any number of not more than six hundred (600) annually by the

authorized border crossing authorities of each of the Contracting Parties to any national of the other Contracting Party, possessing all of the following qualifications:

1. The applicant must have resided in the specified Border Area for at least five years preceding the date of application;
2. The applicant must be otherwise admissible under the immigration laws of the Contracting Party within whose Border Area he intends to travel.

#### ARTICLE IX

Border Crossing Cards containing the English, Tagalog, and Indonesia texts shall be good only for single entry. Each card shall indicate the date and place of issue, and an adequate personal description of the holder, including his photograph, signature, and fingerprints, as well as the destination, purpose of travel to the Border Area, and the border crossing station through which entry and exit is to be effected.

#### ARTICLE X

Each of the Contracting Parties shall, after mutual consultations and consent, establish border crossing card-issuing stations in the Border Area of the other as well as border crossing entry and exit stations in its Border Area. In the same manner, the sites of such border crossing stations may be changed by the Contracting Parties.

#### ARTICLE XI

Each of the Contracting Parties shall repatriate in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement any of nationals to whom a Border Crossing Card has been issued violating any of the terms or conditions under which he was admitted into the territory of the other.

#### ARTICLE XII

The passport, visa, and immigration regulations in effect in the territory of each of the Contracting Parties shall be applicable to all other cases of travel not covered by the present Agreement.

#### ARTICLE XIII

This Agreement shall be in force for a period of five (5) years from the date of its effectivity. At the expiration of said period, the Agreement shall be subject to review by the Contracting Parties and may thereafter be modified, and/or extended, or abrogated.

#### ARTICLE XIV

This Agreement shall be effective upon the exchange of the instruments of ratification which shall take place in Manila.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, the Plenipotentiaries of the Contracting Parties have signed the present Agreement and have hereunto affixed their seals.

Done in duplicate in the English and Indonesian languages, of which the English text shall prevail in case of dispute, in Djakarta this 4th day of July in the year one thousand nine hundred fifty-six, Anno Domini.

For the Republic of

For the Republic of the

Indonesia:	Philippines:
SOEKARJO WIRJOPRANOTO <i>Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary</i>	JOSE FUENTEBELLA <i>Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary</i>

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Agreement between the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of Indonesia. (1961). *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57(21), 3903-3906.



**Funeral Oration of President Garcia at the Necrological Service for Ex-President Sergio Osmeña**

**Funeral Oration  
of  
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia  
President of the Philippines  
At the Necrological Service for Ex-President Sergio Osmeña  
at Capitol Building, Manila**

[Delivered on October 26, 1961]

MY COUNTRYMEN:

ANOTHER life of love is now only a blessed memory. It has passed beyond our horizon, beyond the twilight's purple hills to that vast realm of silence we call death.

We are gathered in this historical hall, drawn together by a common and profound bereavement, to pay heartfelt tribute and bid sad farewell to one of the greatest men ever born to the Filipino race—Sergio Osmeña. In life, he was a gentle and beloved friend, a well-loved husband and father, a firm and wise leader, a peerless kind greathearted statesman, a broad-visioned and selfless patriot. In death, he joins the ranks of our illustrious immortals to become forever the pride and the inspiration of the nation he helped to build, served so well, and loved so dearly.

Sergio Osmeña was God's rare and timely gift to the Filipino people at a critical hour in the life of the Motherland. He burst upon the national scene at the moment when our people, having suffered a humiliating and numbing defeat in war, were bewildered and lost, without pride in their past, indifferent to the meaning of freedom, and thoughtless and heedless of the future, Sergio Osmeña opened to them a new vision and direction and awakened in them a new purpose and a new hope and a new spirit. He led them back to the true road to freedom and fulfillment that Jose Rizal had marked well but from which they had unfortunately strayed away. He was a pioneer, a torch-bearer, a toiler when his country was down. In this historic task, it was as if he combined the great night of right and the cloudless mental vision that appearances cannot deceive, that flattery cannot blind, and threats cannot deflect. The historian of Philippine freedom therefore will be compelled to write the name of Sergio Osmeña on the Tablet of Eternity.

Sergio Osmeña took the helm of our national destiny with hands made firm by inspired wisdom. He bore the signet of Eternity. It was he who established Philippine-American cooperation on a plane of equality, mutual recognition, and mutual respect. It was he who interpreted America to the Filipinos and the Philippines to the Americans with rare insight kind understanding and faithfulness. It was he who turned mutual distrust into mutual friendship, mutual suspicion into mutual trust, mutual hostility into enduring amity. It was he who gave America's political program in the Philippines the flesh and blood and spirit that made of the Philippine Assembly a Filipino triumph in self-government and the precursor of eventual independence on one hand, and, on the other hand, America's springboard to that great adventure in altruism which eventually gave the world an enlightened formula for the liquidation of colonialism and the liberation of all subjected races. The heroic Philippine-American stand in Corregidor and Bataan was a magnificent flowering of the seeds he had sown and the plant he had nourished with care and devotion.

In essaying wise and consummate national leadership, Sergio Osmeña also reached the height of statesmanship and patriotism. To the preservation of the political party that he founded and to the unity of the people he loved, he gladly sacrificed position and ambition and personal fortune. To preserve the oneness of the nation, he made great sacrifices, including political self effacement. Consequently, his three most glorious legacies to us were a vigorous and triumphant Nacionalista Party, a united nationally conscious Philippine nation, and a free independent Philippine Republic. For these three he gave his best and his utmost.

Sergio Osmeña was ever the model of gentleness and correctness and nobility. A sincere regard for the feelings of others guided his conduct. The nobility of his nature ruled his thoughts. The greatness of his soul suffused his deeds. He was mild in anger, moderate in joy, forgiving in defeat and noble in victory. To strangers he was considerate, to

friends he was kind, to his family he was devoted and loving. He was as generous as harvesttime, as hospitable as summer, and as radiant as the full tide of springtime. He was by all greatly beloved. He was respected for his greatness, admired for his accomplishments, and revered for his integrity that rose like a great mountain peak, and there it stood firm as the earth beneath and pure as the stars above.

The one tragedy in the life of Sergio Osmeña was to have been the undeserving victim of the ingratitude of democracies at a time when his services to the nation were of the utmost need and his lifelong patriotic service fully deserved as crowning reward the first presidency of the Republic. Calmly and nobly and in admirable grace, he nevertheless accepted his share of the misled and peculiar temper of postwar electorates that; also toppled down the equally great Winston Churchill from the United Kingdom's premiership. It affected not a whit his deep and abiding love of the people and the nation whom at every opportunity he continued to serve with the same devotion and dedication. Humble in victory, he was proud and unbowed in defeat. It is a great historical paradox that Osmeña emerged greater after his defeat.

Gentle friend and beloved leader: On behalf of our bereaved people, we bid you farewell. But in the night of death our faith sees a star, and our listening love hears the rustle of a wing. We feel your spirit will abide in the heart of the nation as long as liberty and freedom and democracy shall have meaning—as long as this nation, of which you have been one of its greatest architects, shall live and endure. Our grief is profound, and the grief of your beloved family far greater. But we shall all find comfort and solace in the realization that, in the freedom we have, in the prosperity we enjoy, and in the security and tranquility in which we live forever, yourself breathed into them your own life and your spirit. Farewell, beloved leader and gentle friend: May the glories of God's Kingdom ever yours.

*Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Garcia, C. P. (1961). Funeral Oration of President Carlos P. Garcia at the Necrological Service for Ex-President Sergio Osmeña. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 57 (45), 8125-8127.

